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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-199 *14 October 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Jordanian Talks in Elat Conclude

Husayn-Rabin Amman Meeting Praised

JN1310130494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Report by Khalid al-Sharman from Elat—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the start of the fourth and last day of meetings in Elat, Jordan's chief delegate, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, told reporters that his majesty the king's meeting with the Israeli prime minister and the foreign minister last night was encouraging for the negotiators from both sides in their endeavor to bridge gaps in their talks. Dr. al-Tarawinah said his majesty the king and the Israeli leaders consulted on different topics of the negotiations, mainly the three major issues of land, water, and security. Dr. al-Tarawinah added that the negotiators meet in one session today and resume their talks next Monday [17 October] in al-'Aqabah for another week of meetings, at the end of which a joint statement will be released containing, expectedly, tangible results on certain of their agendas.

Elyaqim Rubenstein, who heads the Israeli team, also described last night's meeting as very useful as leaders of Jordan and Israel felt the need to achieve more progress in the negotiations. Dr. Rubenstein said the Washington Declaration stipulates that leaders of both countries will meet to shepherd the negotiations and review them from time to time, and that what has happened in al-'Aqabah some time ago and was done in Amman last night.

Summing up the outcome the first week of Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, said all committees and subcomissions are proceeding well on their deliberations of the different topics on their agendas. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that there are still gaps between the two sides, particularly in major issues like water, land, and security, adding the gaps do not indicate the talks are facing deadlock, nor do they mean the differences are deep. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the major issues just need time to finish off with deep technical details and plans and all economic development schemes will be implemented only after Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty, which also will crown agreement on land, water, and security, beside other issues on their agenda.

Progress Noted on All Agenda Issues

JN1310203394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first week of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Elat has ended. Sources for the Jordanian and Israeli delegations said that some committees made further progress. Details are in the following report by our press team from Elat:

[Begin recording] Talks held between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations in Elat during the past four days saw further progress on all agenda issues discussed by the main and subcommittees. The meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had a clear effect in terms of creating an opportunity for progress and giving more seriousness and importance to the talks, which were held in a positive and optimistic atmosphere.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, said that meetings at the leadership level are very important and that they clarify many, but not all, issues. He added that the two sides are determined to continue their efforts by intensifying work next week. He said that perhaps an agreement will be reached on new dates within the spirit of continuation. He said there is a commitment to everything that has been agreed on and to the basic principles and documents. He also noted that the two sides have a desire to reach basic common grounds.

On his expectations regarding al-'Aqabah talks, al-Tarawinah hoped that they will contribute to speeding up the pace. He also hoped that efforts and determination will work toward achieving new developments in the peace process.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, said that progress has been achieved regarding all the sensitive and problematic issues, including the issues of borders and water. He noted that yesterday's summit contributed to achieving more progress in this round regarding efforts to bridge gaps in the main issues. He also reported progress in the issues of health, police, combating drugs, agriculture, and energy, which constitute the fabric of future relations between the two countries. He noted that peace will be a whole package that will crown an agreement on all these issues.

During a meeting held by the Jordanian and Israeli chief delegates, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah said that the date of the al-'Aqabah meeting has been fixed. However, he said, the meeting may be delayed for one day and thus, it may be held on Tuesday because of the time needed by the delegations to prepare some matters, noting that this is purely a formal issue.

In response to a question about the Casablanca conference, al-Tarawinah said that this conference is mainly aimed at supporting the peace process and serving the ideas presented at the level of the tripartite economic committee or the multilateral conference, particularly at the level of the economic development working group. He added: We hope that the private sector will take part in translating and implementing these ideas since major companies have been invited to attend this conference, mainly companies concerned with developments in the Middle East region.

Al-Tarawinah said: Accomplishing the agreements we have reached will contribute to creating confidence in

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the seriousness of the peace process and its continuity. He said that there is interest at the official and political levels to realize peace so that we can attract foreign investment capital to the region.

The serious and continuous talks held in Elat during the past four days and the progress achieved by the negotiators as a result of their continuous work led to confining today's talks to one session so the delegation could return to Amman to rest and prepare for al-'Aqabah meetings which are expected to begin next Monday or Tuesday. [end recording]

Work on 'Peace Package' Reported

JN1310072394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[By Nirmin Murad in Elat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Israeli negotiators are working on the details of a "peace package" that may lead to the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries soon, a senior Israeli negotiator told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday [12 October].

"The committees are working on a peace package-...something that both sides must be satisfied with," chief Israeli negotiator Elyaqim Rubenstein said in an interview.

Asked whether a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan could be signed before the end of the year, Ambassador Rubenstein said that "it is technically and theoretically possible," but he did not want to make clear-cut predictions.

"The talks are moving in the right direction," Mr. Rubenstein told the JORDAN TIMES adding, however, that he "could not predict when that (signing a peace treaty) would be."

Jordan and Israel resumed peace talks on Monday in a two-week session that is expected to lead to a breakthrough in settling the core issues of delineating the borders between the countries and water sharing.

Although the Jordanian side is trying to keep a lid over the apparent progress in their negotiations with Israel, a new tone was evident in both Israeli and Jordanian statements this week coupled with downsizing of activity as the final details are worked out among heads of committees and the chief negotiators.

A senior Jordanian negotiators said that he could not deny that "there is movement in the negotiations between us," but that "it is not yet up to where the gap has been bridged."

"Our present efforts are concentrated at bridging the gap on the core issues," the senior delegate told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Asked how wide the "gap" was on the core issues, the delegate would only say: "It is a gap."

Another equally cautious delegate said that the two sides "are discussing the details of the items on the common agenda and especially the core issues of water, territories and security."

While the Jordanian side was careful not to confirm reports of finalising a peace package, the delegates also did not deny Israeli statements that such a process is under way.

Ambassador Rubenstein on Wednesday indicated that there "are not many conceptual gaps" between the two sides and that committees were working on "formulating ideas."

"This is a sensitive time in negotiations" Mr. Rubenstein said. "We wish to amicably reach a peace deal with Jordan and I feel that from day to day we are making progress.

A progress that has so far been kept under tight controls with most of the information being kept within a certain circle of negotiators to avoid publicity.

One well-informed source confirmed that the two sides are putting final touches and negotiating "details" which once resolved "will necessarily form a peace treaty."

Although the source would not reveal specifics, he confirmed that the "concepts" have been mostly agreed upon and that the details that still have to be worked out "will not delay the signing of a peace treaty."

Neither side is denying that negotiations have moved into the critical stage although both also appeared to want to leave the big announcements to the leadership of the two states.

Asked whether the negotiators had lost their role after the apparent moving of negotiations to the leadership level, Mr. Rubenstein said that the negotiators "are doing whatever possible to bridge the gap, but there are matters that either have to be confirmed or be bridged by the leadership."

"This is a sensitive stage in negotiations," he repeated when questioned over the details of the "peace package" adding that revealing any information would not serve neither the Jordanian or Israeli side."

But he did confirm that the negotiations during this round of bilaterals were largely concentrated on "formulating ideas" vis-a-vis the water, territories and security issues.

Asked whether Israel was disputing Jordanian claims to any territory, Mr. Rubenstein said that he would not label the status of the territories as disputed or a security concern and that the final status of the territories was a technical question that will be largely determined by the delineation and demarcation of boundaries.

He, however, pointed out that a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel could be signed before the completion of the demarcation "which will take a long time."

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Jordanian delegation sources concurred with Mr. Rubenstein on this point. "Delineation of boundaries is the most important phase in the resolution of the territorial issue because it defines, on paper, where the international boundaries should be.

"Demarcation is the process of implementation on the ground," a Jordanian delegate said.

On water, Jordanian spokesman Marwan al-Mu'ashshir told reporters that "it is just a matter of numbers and quality of water that we are negotiating."

According to other sources close to the water talks, the final details on the number in cubic metres that constitute the Kingdom's water shares in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers may be left open until a last-moment intervention at leadership level.

The principles guiding the security arrangements between Jordan and Israel, according to sources from both sides, "have been largely agreed upon" and most of the negotiations now are concentrating on the details concerning these principles.

Although none of the negotiators interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES would reveal specific details of the agreements that are being reached during these talks, there appears to be a consensus among delegates from both sides that the drawn out negotiations between Israel and Jordan over the past three years may be coming to a close.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan Set To Freeze ACC Membership

MM1310131694 London AL-SiIARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Oct 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jordan Freezes Its Membership of Arab Cooperation Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab political sources in Cairo have said that Jordan will freeze its membership of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] in a step aimed at moving further away from Baghdad in the wake of Iraq's military escalation on the border with Kuwait, which has created an atmosphere of tension in the region again. The sources said that Jordan will embark on its step before the end of the year, repeating the same scenario as Cairo's freezing of its membership of this council, as a result of Iraqi attitudes which have caused serious deterioration in Arab solidarity over the past four years, namely since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Early in the year Egypt canceled by a republican decree its assent to the agreement on the establishment of the ACC—which means it pulls out from it without compelling any of the council's parties to revoke its agreement to the establishment of this council, which was announced in February 1989. It comprised Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen. It was actually frozen after nearly a year when Iraq invaded the State of Kuwait, even though its states did not announce its breakup until Egypt embarked on its step five years after the council's establishment.

League Chief Meets Libyan Envoy on Arab Summit, Iraq

NC1310134894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met Libyan Arab League Envoy Ibrahim al-Bishari today.

They exchanged views on developments in the Gulf and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call for an emergency Arab summit to clear the air, heal the rift, and restore Arab solidarity.

In a statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League is studying the responses it is receiving from the Arab countries concerning the Libyan call.

He hoped the return of the Iraqi forces to their previous positions will help alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Soldier Not in Gaza Strip, Jericho

JN1410084494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that the Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman, who was kidnapped on Monday, is not present in the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area.

In an official statement issued by the Palestinian National Authority last night, the Authority accused the Israeli Government of playing the game of the kidnappers, who reject the peace process, by imposing collective punishment on the Gaza Strip, holding the Authority responsible for the soldier's fate, and closing the entrances to the Gaza Strip.

Representatives of the Palestinian detainees have appealed to the kidnappers of the soldier not to kill him even if Israel does not respond to their demands. They also urged the kidnappers to demonstrate calmness and wisdom and not to harm the kidnapped soldier.

Hamas Statement on Kidnapping, Security Crackdown

NC1310111394 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Report by Nejla Sammakia]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 13 (AFP)—Palestinian police arrested more than 150 Islamic militants in the Gaza Strip on Thursday in an

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unprecedented crackdown as the hunt went on for an Israeli soldier held hostage by Hamas.

But Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) defiantly announced the 19-year-old corporal may not be in the self-rule Gaza Strip at all and vowed to continue "kidnapping soldiers."

Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabali told AFP: "At least 150 Hamas people have already been arrested. The security arrangements will continue until the man is found."

Palestinian police were also searching houses in the self-rule enclave of Jericho on the West Bank.

The fundamentalists have threatened to execute Nahshon Wachsman if Israel failed to release several Moslem leaders, including Hamas founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, and dozens of other prisoners by 1900 GMT Friday.

Hamas taunted Israel in a statement sent to news agencies.

"Israel knows perfectly well that the possibility of his presence in the self-rule area is one of many possibilities," it said.

The soldier, who disappeared last Sunday while hitchhiking near Tel Aviv airport, could well be in the occupied territories or even in "neighboring states such as Egypt or Jordan or even Cyprus or Syria."

"Israel took advantage of the al-Qassam claim made from the autonomous area to pressure the limited Palestinian Authority."

Israel has insisted that the soldier is in Gaza after Hamas claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in a videotape recorded on the Strip.

"Hamas is trying time and again to kidnap soldiers with all their weapons. The attempts will not stop unless the enemies of God respond and the attempts will be repeated a million times until they give in to our demands," its statement warned.

It attacked PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, asking him: "Do you now understand that we send out our sons to do what you have failed to do?"

Among those detained on Thursday were senior leader Ibrahim al-Yazuri, and a number of clergymen.

At least eight other prominent Hamas men were also detained along with six local journalists, including four from a news agency which obtained the videotape of Waksman.

Hamas officials said police broke into the houses of leaders Mahmud al-Zahhar and Khalid al-Hindi, but both men were out. They had met 'Arafat on Wednesday as security forces launched a major search. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader Warns of 'Armed Conflict' With PA

MM1410084294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih and Mahmud Abu-'Id: "Hamas Threatens Palestinian Authority [PA] With Armed Confrontation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, occupied Jerusalem—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader, has warned of the possibility of an armed conflict breaking out between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas as a result of the campaign against the movement's members and the arrests made by the Palestinian police. It is the first time al-Zahhar, who is known for his moderation, has issued such a warning.

As is known, al-Zahhar is one of the few Hamas leaders who met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza in the wake of the killing of a Palestinian police officer last month.

Al-Zahhar criticized the "haphazard arrest campaign" launched by the Palestinian police and the storming of houses in search of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Zahhar said that the police "illegally" stormed his house and the houses of scores of the movement's members. He added that "the policemen stormed his house through the main and side gates despite his presence in the house, and they seized private documents."

He described the search operations as a serious phenomenon, threatening that Hamas will confront it violently. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Says PA Doing Best To Find Soldier

NC1310215694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinan Authority, PA] in Gaza, told the BBC this evening that in line with the agreement signed with Israel, the PNA is doing all it can to find the kidnapped Israeli soldier and return him alive to his family if he is in Gaza and also to track down his kidnappers if they are in Gaza.

He added that the responsibility for the kidnapping is dual, not the PNA's responsibility alone, and yet we are doing everything possible to find the soldier and hand him back to Israel.

Sha'th said in the interview that the soldier was kidnapped in Lod or Ramla; and if he was brought to the Gaza Strip, he would have to pass three Israeli checkpoints to reach Gaza. Therefore the responsibility is shared by the PNA and Israel. [passage omitted]

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Progress Said Made in Investigation

TA1310201794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian security sources in Gaza have reported that progress has been made in the investigation of the kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsman. Speaking off the record, some of the sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that bits of information they obtained may confirm Israel's claim that the kidnapped soldier is being held in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent notes that the Palestinian National Security Council is currently in session in Yasir 'Arafat's office.

All the Palestinian police and security service units have been placed on alert in anticipation of another wave of detentions of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists as early as tonight. Large Palestinian police forces have assembled in police stations in the Strip. Roadblocks have been erected in Gaza city, and suspicious-looking cars are being inspected.

Sha'th Discusses Withdrawal, Talks, Aid

NC1410075594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and "minister of planning and international cooperation" in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza City, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Miliji] We have on the line between Cairo and Gaza today Dr. Nabil Sha'th. Good morning and welcome to this interview.

[Sha'th] Thank you very much.

[Al-Miliji] Could you tell us something about the scope of the tripartite meeting involving President 'Arafat, President Mubarak, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

[Sha'th] This meeting will address two topics as far as Christopher is concerned. The first is to follow up on the peace process, particularly the problems in the Palestinian-Israeli arena. The second is to follow up on the issue of the delayed international aid being given to us piece by piece, when the Palestinian Authority and Palestine need all the speedy support they can get to solve the problems they are facing.

The meeting with His Excellency brother President Husni Mubarak, naturally, is an extension of the sincere and important relationship in which the president plays the role of the bigger participant in the peace process and the real supporter of the Palestinian side in this process. In these meetings, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] always puts President Mubarak in the picture of developments. President 'Arafat resorts to Egyptian support at a time when the Palestinians need this support.

[Al-Miliji] We would like to comment on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations regarding self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The latest of these negotiations addressed the issue of elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Could you tell us something about the results of these talks?

[Sha'th] These talks are not proceeding very well; the issue of elections is vital, important. Israel knows it is difficult for it to announce that it will not meet its promises and is not ready to fulfill this issue. The issue of elections is linked in the first place with the Israeli withdrawal from the cities, villages, and Palestinian camps of the West Bank. It does not want to withdraw and is stalling over implementing this withdrawal on the dates set for it. This withdrawal was supposed to take place on 13 July. So Israel is now five months late [as heard]. But because withdrawal is linked with the subject of elections, Israel is starting negotiations over elections. It is also attempting to hamper them to hold up the real point behind these negotiations—the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the West Bank.

[Al-Miliji] What are the Israeli pretexts for postponing withdrawal?

[Sha'th] The real reasons are security and the settlers. The pretexts are that it wants to discuss in detail the issue of elections. It creates new topics each day saying it wants to interfere in who nominates himself, who is elected, and how the election process is taking place. These are things that Israel really has nothing to do with. What Israel is expected to do with regard to the Palestinian elections is to withdraw and allow the international observers to come in and monitor the freedom of these elections. It must reach agreement with us on the measures through which the Jerusalemites will participate in the nomination and voting processes. But Israel is sidestepping all of these issues and discussing subjects with the objective of stalling them.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding the concept of withdrawal, is it a withdrawal or redeployment of troops?

[Sha'th] The concept behind the redeployment of troops is very clear in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. The redeployment of troops consists of two steps of withdrawal. The first step is to withdraw from all the towns, villages, camps, and Palestinian residential areas to places outside them.

The second step is to withdraw from the roads and the remaining posts to security positions to be agreed on or defined by both sides. So there are two withdrawals: The first is from the cities, villages, and populated areas. This should be completed before the beginning of the elections. The second withdrawal is toward the security positions [word indistinct].

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[Al-Miliji] What has been achieved during the two rounds of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Cairo?

[Sha'th] The only positive thing was getting Israel to consent to the opening of five offices in the West Bank to begin preparations for elections and its announcement that it will allow the use of a database to register West Bank inhabitants in the constituencies. The Palestinian side must take specific measures to complete the polling registers, the constituencies, and other statistics. This takes time. Apart from that no crucial progress has been made.

[Al-Miliji] What about the participation of the people of Jerusalem in elections?

[Sha'th] The Declaration of Principles signed in Washington stipulates that the people of Jerusalem are entitled to participate in the electoral process [previous six words in English]. This can never be exclusive to voting, otherwise the text would have said participate in voting [last three words in English]. Participation in the electoral process distinctly includes three points: Participation in voting, in candidacy, and in organizing the electoral process and the necessary propaganda. The Israeli side has refused to admit that and says that they only approve of voting when Jerusalem people are concerned. The issue requires much effort.

[Al-Miliji] Let us move on to the issue of foreign assistance. What is the latest?

[Sha'th] Donor states committed themselves to paying $2.4 billion in assistance during the Washington conference for donor states on 1 October 1993. Of this amount $720 million has been earmarked for 1994. All the Palestinian Authority has received is 10 percent, that is, $65-70 million. We are still waiting for a new meeting of the donor states. The major problem at the Paris meeting was the issue of Jerusalem and the American and Israeli insistence not to include Jerusalem projects in the projects financed by donors. We cannot accept that. One of the items on the agenda of the meeting between President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher might be to set a date for that meeting.

Hamas To Extend Deadline if Yasin Freed 'at Once'

TA1310191794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced that if Israel frees Shaykh Ahmad Yasin at once, it will announce that it is extending the ultimatum it set for the release of kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachsman.

All the Palestinian prisoners sent a letter this evening to Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, one of the Fatah commanders, asking that Nahshon Wachsman be released. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomi Eldar.

The International Red Cross issued an announcement in Geneva according to which it is willing to mediate for the release of the kidnapped soldier.

Islamic Leader Urges Hamas Not To Harm Soldier

JN1310181594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement behind the green line, has urged the kidnappers of the Israeli soldier from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to obey the orders of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who called on his followers to return the kidnapped soldier safely to his parents. Shaykh Darwish asked the kidnappers not to harm the soldier.

Darwish also called on Israeli Prime Minister to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin to support His Excellency President 'Arafat in his efforts to find the kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachsman.

'Arafat Recalls al-Rujub in Wake of Kidnapping

TA1310173394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat urgently recalled Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service in Jericho, from abroad in the wake of Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping. Upon his return, al-Rujub was delayed for some time at Ben-Gurion Airport because he did not have the entry permit Palestinians must possess upon their return from abroad. The matter was cleared up only after Israeli officials intervened. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that al-Rujub was visiting a training base for Palestinian security personnel in Egypt.

Hamas Says 300 Arrested Due to Kidnapping

NC1310163094 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 13 (AFP)—The radical Islamic movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on Thursday accused Palestinian police in Gaza of arresting nearly 300 of its leaders and members in what it called an Israeli-style raid, and vowed to retaliate.

Ibrahim Ghawshah, a spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, told AFP that in the crackdown, launched to find the kidnappers of an Israeli soldier, the Palestinian police resorted "to the same practices as the Israeli army of occupation."

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"Police force their way into homes, ransack them and terrorize women and children," he said, calling the crackdown "totally unjustified."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said he holds PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat personally responsible for the safety of the soldier. Ghawshah said that by doing that, Rabin "is pushing for a confrontation with Hamas."

"But Hamas and the people who have staged the Palestinian uprising will not stand by idly in the face of this plot and will answer this aggression," the spokesman added.

Hamas has threatened to kill the 19-year-old corporal if Israel does not release several Moslem leaders, including the founder of Hamas, and 200 Palestinian prisoners by 1900 GMT Friday.

The Gaza police say they have arrested more than 150 Hamas followers.

Hamas Spokesman Threatens To Kidnap More Soldiers

JN1310153794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Amman, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier and calls for releasing many Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in exchange for releasing the Israeli soldier, has accused the Palestinian police of arresting 300 Hamas members in their arrest campaign in the Gaza Strip. Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman in Amman, accused the Palestinian police forces of resorting to the same occupation practices of the Israelis. In a statement issued today, Hamas threatened to kidnap more Israeli soldiers.

'Arafat Aide Appeals to Rabin To End Closure

TA1310135294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser, believes that the abduction of Nahshon Wachsman jeopardizes the peace process and harms the well-being and welfare of the Gaza Strip residents. Speaking to our correspondent, the adviser called on Prime Minister Rabin to call off the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip because it harms the majority of the residents. Our correspondent notes that many Gaza Strip residents are angry about the soldier's abduction because they fear a prolonged closure.

Hamas Threat Not To Release Body Reported

TA1310134594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A new Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet, issued only a few minutes ago, states that if its demands are not met, the Hamas men will not only execute IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier Nahshon Wachsman, but also will not give his body to Israel. Our Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen reports that the Hamas leaflet, which is currently being distributed in the Gaza Strip, is addressed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In the leaflet, Hamas makes it clear that its men have no intention of harming the soldier before the ultimatum expires on 14 October at 2100 [1900 GMT].

On the same issue, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said a few minutes ago that according to the most recent information he has obtained, the kidnapped soldier is still alive.

Hamas Official: Kidnappers Operated 'Independently'

TA1310131994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Oct 94 p A4

[Report by territories correspondent Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim al-Yazuri, one of the senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, told HA'ARETZ in an interview yesterday that there is no way of knowing where kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachsman is being held.

Here is the text of the interview with Ibrahim al-Yazuri, who has assumed Shaykh Yasin's place and whom an Israeli court convicted of founding Hamas along with Yasin.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you know where the soldier is being held or who kidnapped him?

[Al-Yazuri] No, I have no idea.

[HA'ARETZ] What do you think about the kidnapping?

[Al-Yazuri] I do not know. Israel is an occupying power. Therefore, the Palestinians have the right to defend themselves any way they can.

[HA'ARETZ] Does this act enjoy public support?

[Al-Yazuri] Definitely. The Palestinian people are proud of such an operation and vehemently condemn the continued imprisonment of a sick old man like Shaykh Yasin, who cannot survive prison life. What about humanity and human rights with regard to this problem?

I am sure that such acts would stop if Shaykh Yasin were released from prison. Israel is giving young people legitimate cause to carry out more serious operations than this. You want to establish friendly and peaceful relations with the Palestinian people, yet you continue to hold thousands of Palestinians in your prisons. The Palestinian people and the prisoners do not accept this.

[HA'ARETZ] Is the Palestinian Authority [PA] making enough efforts to secure Yasin's release?

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[Al-Yazuri] The PA is of no import in this regard. It cannot decide on this, because it is an Israeli matter. In any case, the PA is nothing but a puppet in Israel's hands.

[HA'ARETZ] Three Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip were summoned to 'Arafat's offices today and were asked to help find the soldier.

[Al-Yazuri] I heard about the meeting, but it is my sincere opinion that no one can know with any degree of certainty what happened to the soldier. Neither me nor them. The youths who carried out the deed operate independently. None of us have any contact with them. They operate alone, and no one knows where they took the soldier or what they did with him.

[HA'ARETZ] Are you saying that the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam members do not receive instructions from anybody?

[Al-Yazuri] No, no. They operate alone. They belong to Hamas but operate alone. No one gives them instructions or orders.

PLO Crackdown on Hamas Detailed

TA1310130794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip have detained more than 200 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the sweep that began last night. Hamas leaders have reacted angrily, accusing the PLO of doing Israel's dirty work. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] Some reports from Gaza put as high as 300 the number of Hamas activists rounded up since last night. PLO police chief, General Nasr Yusuf, said 9,000 police were involved in the operation that began at 2200 last night. Yusuf confirmed that among those detained are five reporters from REUTER connected with obtaining the videotape recording of Nahshon Wachsman in captivity. Despite the crackdown, there is still no indication that the Palestinian Authority [PA] are any closer to finding the kidnapped soldier. The Palestinian police are also conducting searches in Jericho, and Fatah members in the West Bank have been ordered to obtain intelligence information on the kidnapping.

Speaking in Gaza this morning, Yasir 'Arafat said he would not allow any defiance and stressed that he will confront any challenge to law and order. And in what is seen as a reference to Iranian support for Hamas, 'Arafat also talked about orders coming from outside.

Hamas leaders have reacted angrily to the wave of arrests, accusing the PLO of doing Israel's dirty work. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a senior Hamas spokesman in the strip, said Hamas was forced into the kidnapping because all other efforts to release their prisoners have failed. The dialogue between the PLO and Hamas has come to an end, he said. The latest statement put out by Hamas this morning says Wachsman may be found in Gaza, Jerusalem, or anywhere in Israel or in a neighboring state. The group also warns Prime Minister Rabin that they will carry out another terrorist attack in response to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Leaflet Gives Reasoning for Kidnapping

TA1310120294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report just in: Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has just put out a leaflet in the Gaza Strip stating that they kidnapped Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman because Fatah worked to secure the release of only their own men from Israeli prisons, while Hamas men were left behind.

Negotiations for Soldier's Release Confirmed

TA1310115694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's special aide, says he has been negotiating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on behalf of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and at 'Arafat's instructions to bring about the release of Private Nahshon Wachsman. Israel Television correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports from Gaza:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Eldar] Negotiations with Hamas have been held at 'Arafat's instructions since last night. Have these borne any results yet?

[Al-Tibi] No comment.

[Eldar] But negotiations are under way.

[Al-Tibi] The chairman and the PA are doing their best and are not sparing any effort to bring this affair to a quick conclusion and to return Nahshon alive and well to his family as soon as possible.

[Eldar] You are in Gaza today. Are you involved in those negotiations?

[Al-Tibi] Yes. [end recording]

'Arafat Addresses Police, Urges 'State Discipline'

JN1310191994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and head of the National Authority, today called on the Palestinian people to take their positions to defend and safeguard this homeland—land, people, order, and democracy—from demagoguery and attempts to bypass law and order. He said this in a speech today at a graduation ceremony for Palestinian

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police at al-Yarmuk playground in Gaza. More than 4,000 people attended the ceremony.

'Arafat said that a state cannot exist without discipline or democracy. He called for building the homeland with Jerusalem as its capital. His excellency added: We refuse to see this homeland exploited for the purposes or decisions of some people abroad. We will not agree to do anything against law and order, and we will not allow any tampering with or challenge to state discipline.

'Arafat greeted the Palestinian police and security forces and called on them to work with determination and faithfulness to build the homeland with Jerusalem as its capital.

DFLP Campaign To Expose Authority 'Practices'

JN1310230394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 26

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], headed by Nayif Hawatimah, launched an Arab and international campaign to expose the practices by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in Gaza and Jericho against strugglers from the DFLP and other opposition factions.

A statement issued by the DFLP says that the number of its detained strugglers in the past month and the beginning of this month has reached about 100. The DFLP claims that their only crime is their resistance to the Israeli occupation and Jewish settlers, who are occupying large parts of their territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The DFLP accused Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of being behind operations to pursue and arrest strugglers from the Red Star [al-Najm al-Ahmar] forces affiliated with the DFLP. The DFLP published the text of deal the self-rule authority is offering the detainees in return for their release. It stipulates that the detainees pledge to stop all forms of resistance against the occupation forces and settlers.

The DFLP added that its strugglers rejected this offer just as they previously rejected a similar one presented by the occupation authorities.

The DFLP detainees appealed to international organizations and human rights societies to seek their release.

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Algeria

Security Services Kill Six 'Terrorists'

LD1310183494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique from the security services announces that two terrorists were killed by citizens in the locality of Reggata, in the wilaya of Boumerdes. The two men, whose identification is still being sought, were about to carry out attacks.

Acting on a tip-off from citizens, the security services killed two terrorists in Bourbel, in the wilaya of Tipaza. Two other terrorists were killed in Semmar, in the wilaya of Algiers and in Mekhatria, in the wilaya of Ain Defla.

Truck Explodes; 'Terrorist' Identified

LD1410063694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The security services announced yesterday that a small booby-trapped truck exploded at 2230 hours [2130 GMT] at (Elmakkariya) in Algiers. The same source said the explosion did not cause death or injury and did not result in any damage. [passage omitted] The security services said they were able to identify one of two terrorists who were arrested the day before yesterday in Hociene Dey in Algiers. He is called (Abdelaziz Benhadja), 27 years old, an electronic engineer, and resides in Herrach. He is one of the makers of the bombs which were placed in the vehicles that exploded the day before yesterday in Algiers and Tizi Ouzou. [passage omitted]

Sifi Announces Regional TV, Radio Development

LD1310212294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a few days the Algerian people will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the glorious 1 November revolution. [passage omitted]

On the occasion Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi submitted a project to national television and broadcasting personnel to develop the audio-visual sector. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said that developing this sector will take place through the setting up of regional television and radio stations to carry programs to coincide with national television programs, as well as setting up a second television channel. [passage omitted] The development of television programs will be centered on setting up regional television stations.

As for the development of radio broadcasting, this will include the establishment of new local radio stations, especially along the border region in the south.

The prime minister seized the opportunity to recall that the Algerian people will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the November revolution in a few days. He stressed the importance of the contribution which is expected from television and radio services, and all the sections of the media and communications, in order to project the full importance of this historic event. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak, Christopher Hold Round of Talks

NC1410082794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. Christopher arrived in Alexandria this morning. President Mubarak and the U.S. secretary of state held a round of talks attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the Middle East peace process. Christopher informed President Husni Mubarak of the results of his talks in Israel, Syria, and Jordan.

President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to join the bilateral round of talks between Mubarak and Christopher later today to discuss methods for pushing the peace process forward.

'Arafat Joins Talks

NC1410091294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 14 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Alexandria earlier today, has joined the round of bilateral talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The tripartite talks addressed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and ways to overcome the obstacles before the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

'Amr Musa Discusses Iraqi Withdrawal With Envoy

JN1310161894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (INA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here today with Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League.

At the end of the meeting, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the Iraqi delegate informed him that the Iraqi troops had withdrawn from the area bordering Kuwait.

Musa added that his talks with the Iraqi delegate also addressed the rapid measures needed to complete the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from this area. He stressed that all aspects of the issue have been examined.

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It is to be recalled that Iraq announced yesterday, through a statement by the foreign minister, that the Iraqi troops had completed their relocation in rear areas.

Arab League Welcomes Stand on Gulf Crisis

NC1310164494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—The Arab League has welcomed Egypt's stand calling for solving the current crisis in the Arab Gulf within an Arab framework, a stand expressed in Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statements.

'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, said a strategically durable and firm solution to the Gulf crisis has to be an Arab solution.

In a statement issued today, he adds that the Arab League has done its best since the crisis broke out, through contacts held by the League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, to end the state of tension resulting from the Iraqi threats. He said these efforts have been continuous since the outbreak of the crisis.

Sudanese Leader's Statements on Iraq Condemned

NC1410083594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—[Passage omitted] The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has condemned Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir's stance on the Iraqi regime's troop buildup on the border with Kuwait. It noted the Sudanese president's unabashed and shameless announcement in a news conference that the preparations some alliance countries have taken to force the Iraqi troops planning to invade Kuwait to withdraw quickly is no more than part of an imperialist campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation to terminate its power.

The newspaper said that al-Bashir's regime in Sudan was at the forefront of the four Arab regimes supporting Iraq during its indiscriminate invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, a move that shattered Arab solidarity and distorted the image of the Arab nation.

The newspaper added that if al-Bashir's regime and its leader al-Turabi—and they are doing such terrible things to the Sudanese people—think they will soon receive the prize for their unilateral defense of the Iraqi regime, they are deluding themselves, because the dictator of Baghdad himself needs help today.

Reports on Gulf Developments, Terrorism Discussed

NC1310163894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In its meeting today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the Council of Ministers discussed a report by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The report reviews the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and notes the importance of a peaceful and speedy solution to the problem. The report also refers to Egypt's highest-level contacts with various sides to avoid the serious repercussions of the situation.

In his report, the foreign minister emphasizes Kuwait's decisive right to safe territory and to protecting its borders. He also notes the importance of avoiding anything that may harm the safety of Iraq's territory and the importance of sympathy with the fraternal people of Iraq.

The foreign minister also reviews the security situation in the Middle East and the importance of discussing a disarmament process based on removing weapons of mass destruction from the region and giving no country in the region any privilege over the other. He also noted the important talks that will be held in Cairo tomorrow with the U.S. secretary of state and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The above was stated by Cabinet Affairs Minister Counselor Ahamd Radwan. He said the Council of Ministers also discussed a report presented by the economic ministerial group on the results of recent talks with international institutions on Egypt's economic reform process. The report explains the financial and economic discipline Egypt has enjoyed since it embarked on the economic reform program. This leads Egypt's national economy toward more productivity and a higher standard of living for its citizens, the report says.

The cabinet affairs minister said the Council of Ministers also discussed a report presented by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. The report says that terrorist organizational structures have collapsed under the pressure of security confrontations, that the terrorist scheme has fallen apart and lost the initiative, and that the dangers of extremism have subsided.

The interior minister says in his report that the security agencies are not unmindful of some terrorist groups and hotbeds in the Upper Egypt governorates, especially in Qina, Suhaj, and al-Minya. He stresses that these groups are being dealt with carefully to abort any planned terrorist operations. He further says that coordination with security services in a number of countries is currently under way to watch the activity of terrorist leaders abroad and to take legal measures to arrest and extradite them to Egypt.

Mubarak Announces Addition of F-16, Apache Brigades

NC1210130494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jiyanklis, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today attended a major air show organized by the Air Force as part of the celebrations marking their 62d anniversary and the 21st

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anniversary of the glorious October victories in Jiyanklis Air Base in al-Buhayrah Governorate.

Mubarak arrived in the base at 1145 and was received by Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and a number of senior Armed Forces commanders.

Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Pilot Ahmad Nasr delivered a speech in which he reviewed the achievements of the Air Force in the era of President Mubarak.

He announced that a new F-16 brigade and a brigade of Apache planes have joined the Air Force, which gives an idea about the comprehensive development in the Air Force. [passage omitted]

Meets Third Army Commanders

NC1010195694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this evening with the Third Army commanders in the presence of Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Commanders of the armed forces main branches also attended the meeting, which lasted one and a half hours.

Mauritania

Fundamentalist Claims Confession Coerced

AB1210204594 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 12 Oct 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a surprise move, the Mauritanian Government last night released around 60 people arrested some two weeks ago in a drive against alleged Islamic fundamentalists. They claimed once that extremists had been plotting the overthrow of the government. At the weekend, 10 of the detainees were paraded on television, and it was claimed that they had confessed the plot. Well, our Nouakchott correspondent Sheik Bekaye has been to see one of the released Islamists, it seems he sees things fairly differently. Sheik Bekaye telexed us this report:

One of those released, Jemil Mansour, a senior member in the Islamic movement, who had been paraded on TV, said most of what they had told the security forces had been edited out. Jemil Mansour said he did confess to being a member of a secret Islamic movement, but he said: I had also told them that I am ready to renounce my membership of all illegal organizations if the government, in turn, allows the formation of legal Islamic political parties. That condition, he added, was not publicized. According to Jemil, he confessed in order to prevent the authorities from arresting all the members of the Islamic movement, as well as a means of negotiating with the government. Jemil told me that as far as they were concerned they would continue with their Islamic activities and would respond to what he described as aggression and humiliation at the hands of the regime. He however said that they would not engage in terrorist activities and would continue to search for democracy.

By releasing the Muslim activists, the government seemingly wants to put an end to clashes with Islamic groups, perhaps, because they now realize that these groups present no threat to security. However, the reasons given for confessing will not go down well with ordinary Muslims, and it may well cause dissensions in the movement. Jemil denied he was tortured, but said some of them were forced to tell the police what they wanted to hear.

Islamic Movement's Strategy Discussed

LD1110141794 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Movement in Mauritania [Hasim] draws its policies and plans from a program of guidance and training by Dr. Cassoli, an American national of Ugandan origin, who works at the international Islamic institute in Washington.

This program includes four chapters, on the following: planning principles, strategic planning, assessment principles, and ways of communication.

In the first chapter, the movement adopts a theory which says that failure in planning amounts to planning for failure. It has a three-pronged plan to this effect which it calls planning, implementing, and assessing, with the possibility of starting from any one of these three points.

In its program of guidance and training, the Hasim movement has short-, medium-, and long-term plans. In planning for its goals, the movement follows basic steps which it calls preparing, making decisions, and informing those who are concerned, then being in control.

In brief, the movement tries to answer four questions: What is the target? What does the movement want from it? How may the objective be achieved? When is the time right for this? All these plans and questions are based on the result of the communication step which defines whether it has been possible to reach goals or not.

In this respect, the movement's plan of action stresses that, in case of failure in carrying out a particular action in a given field, it becomes necessary to embark upon new fields and to set up new programs in the plan of the following year. This should be done on the basis of the first article of the decentralized plan that makes it incumbent upon the sub-branches to return to the top of the pyramid of the planning body.

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The guidance and training program, from which the Hasim movement draws its plans of action, stipulates the necessity of harmonizing the factors of time and finance. Two examples are given.

The first example says: Should third-class mail suffer from some delay in reaching our sub-branches, then let us send this mail first class even if we have to pay three times more for it. The second example says: Should an invitation sent out to a sub-branch to come and attend a given activity be delayed, then we should send the invitation with a travel ticket at a higher cost to make sure that the plane is not missed.

Within the framework of the implementation of plans, the movement adopts the eight-question system based on the program of guidance and training: What is the goal of the plan? Why this goal in particular? Who will implement it? Who is targeted by the plan? How will the goal be reached and the results assessed? When will the implementation be more effective? When will the implementation or the activity be more effective? Finally, what is the cost in human, financial, and time terms of the success of the plan?

The movement links the success of all these goals to their implementation in total secrecy. The program of guidance recommends that names which have some effect on and significance in people's minds should be conveyed to all the movement's cells and organizations, and that urgent alternatives should be found when secret plans are discovered.

The movement adopts a deceptive line in the so-called field of assessment. The second paragraph of the chapter on training and assessment makes the movement's members and activists believe that they are right and that they will be generously compensated. Furthermore, it stresses to the contributors and supporters of the movement the benefit from their support and the necessity of meeting the required goals.

Regarding the training issue, the guidance program stipulates the necessity of varying action methods, which should include study camps, sessions, workshops, and symposiums under the cover of doing good and charitable works in order to spot the areas of need. These are the breaches through which it is easy to go deeper in society and determine the appropriate groups in order to start implementing plans and programs.

The program of guidance and training calls for the preservation of appearances in its last chapter, because people are deceived by appearances . The program recalls that ordinary discussions do not require a business suit, but the display of merchandise or a project requires the wearing of deceptive and appropriate attire.

The program concludes by dividing contacts into two parts: nonverbal contact, to probe those who are targeted, and direct contact, with appearances, movements, manners, gestures, voice, clothing, and gentle demeanor. The program stresses that all these are tools which can help the activist to pounce on his prey at the initial stage and at low cost.

In the last page of the program, the planners expound ways to verify information and relations with a director of an organ of a national Islamic organization who employs a number of assistants. He should meet regularly with his assistants and submit an annual report to the mother organization to make sure that plans drawn up outside the homeland have been implemented literally and in accordance with original intentions.

Hasim uses clubs, societies, and seminars to teach jihad guerrilla warfare tactics. The documents on inciting to guerrilla warfare include the conditions and the main characteristics of this type of war, central and grassroots organizational networks, and ways of mobilizing Hasim's members and supporters. It also includes existing types and strategies and proven tactics of guerrilla warfare, especially those concerning warfare conducted in forests, bushes, mountains, and countryside in general.

These documents deal essentially with plans for jihad guerrilla warfare inside cities and towns and with tactics of concentration and deployment. The Hasim movement's documents on jihad guerrilla warfare clearly focus on the overthrow of the authorities by every means, including the physical liquidation of prominent figures, particularly in the cities. This plan stipulates the targeting of the heads of official institutions, at all levels of the pyramid of responsibility, from the presidency, ministers, members of parliament, and senior politicians, to officials in charge of security departments and top media officials. These extremely dangerous documents, which are alien to the Islamic and civilizational values of the Mauritanian people, stress the need to ignite the fire of jihad guerrilla warfare by targeting the command structures of the authorities in the first stages, regarding this as a definite guarantee for achieving the remaining objectives. Hasim believes that such behavior would confer the required credibility on the jihad gangs in the eyes of the members and supporters of the organization and in those of the public. [passage omitted]

The information plan of this movement is based on setting up networks to communicate with foreign media, allocating at least one person to deal with the independent press, in addition to infiltrating elements into the official media with at least one element in every information institution. The plan provides also for opening up information channels abroad with the help of expatriates.

The Hasim media plan has been aimed at the publication of newspapers and periodicals through establishing and equiping publishing companies with electronic machines for word processing, printing, and production. Hasim, whose subversive plans have now been uncovered, has set up a wide network of contacts by using cultural

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societies, nongovernmental humanitarian organizations, religious bodies, and forums such as mosques, conventions, and institutes. These bodies have been diverted, cunningly and in a conspiratorial manner, from the spirit of their sacred Islamic and humanitarian mission.

Thus Hasim has been busy swallowing up the funds of suspicious charity organizations and entering into questionable relations with these organizations, with a view to undermining security and stability in the country. We find among these foreign organizations the Islamic Call Organization, the African-Muslim Agency [preceding term in English], and the Board of Charity Works in the United Arab Emirates. The so-called Cheikhani Ould Beiba, who was a member of the Hasim consultative council and vice chairman of the African-Muslim Agency and its acting director, has used the resources of this organization and its various means to finance the subversive activities of Hasim. The other leaders and members of the movement did exactly the same in their dealings with the so-called charity organizations working under the cover of Islam in the country.

Here follows some significant evidence of the conditions of the activities of these so-called charity societies and their involvement in smuggling and economic sabotage.

[Begin recording] [Hasim member Abdrabbi] Ben Sahra Abdrabbi, born on 21 July 1965 in Rachidia; name of father is Ben Sahra Naim Ben Khalifa and the name of my mother is Ben Sahra Fatimah Bent Faraji; graduated from the science faculty of Mohamed V University in Rabat; I joined the movement as a manager of the African Muslim Agency on 3 February 1994.

[Unidentified correspondent] The agreements signed between your organization and the Mauritanian authorities provide that your financial resources should enter Mauritania through the Mauritanian Central Bank. What are the new channels you were using to bring these financial resources into Mauritania?

[Abdrabbi] There is direct transfer of money from Kuwait to a merchant in Saudi Arabia. This merchant knows another merchant here in Mauritania called Maaloum Ould Lamine Ould Ba who is in charge of transfers from the merchant in Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Could you tell us more about these channels?

[Abdrabbi] [passage indistinct] I have mentioned one person, who has [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Could you please describe this operation?

[Abdrabbi] Yes, as I said before, this operation, when we are told, through one of our channels, that our agent in the United Arab Emirates has received a sum of money, he informs us of the value of that sum; we take its equivalent in local currency and we tell our representative in the Emirates to deliver the money to the agent who [words indistinct] [end recording]

To cover the finances of the various activities of this movement Ahmad Husayn al-Raqit, a national from the United Arab Emirates, contributed a capital sum of $15,000 to the Rabat paper plant situated in the district of [word indistinct] in Nouakchott and directed by Shaykh Mulla Mukhtar. The Rabat paper plant represents one of the sources of Hasim's finance.

Other sources of finance come from members' contributions, which are estimated at 2.5 percent of their income, in addition to contributions, donations, and grants from members and supporters.

These large sums of money collected in these secretive and twisted ways are used to buy subversive equipment and tools, to pay travel costs, and to cover the various services and running of centers.

Regarding the exploitation of the educational bodies, Hasim had widely and dishonestly used the Islamic Cultural Society and all of its clubs such the Mis'ab bin Umayr and 'Aishah clubs, and others, such as the Institute of Islamic Thought, Bin Mas'ud Institute, and the 'Iqra and al-Sahoua associations.

Thus it clearly transpires that Hasim, whatever disguises it has assumed, has been involved, since its first presence in the youth conference in 1977 and the convening of its first conference in 1978, in sabotage and agitation methods, in a desperate attempt to undermine the foundations of our society by means of setting up networks engaging in secret action to dope weak minds, spread deception, and give rise to sedition under a shining religious cover which is alien to Islam and Muslims.

Commentary Criticizes Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1110010694 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We start this newscast with this commentary which we have just received from the Mauritanian news agency:

Speaking recently on the peace process in the Middle East in front of the vice president and defense minister of Rwanda, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made a strange statement in which he criticized the states that supported this process, even Mauritania. Mauritania, the state that has not fought a war and will not have to fight a war until doomsday, and which did not take part in the cause of Palestine or the battle for Palestine in the past, and will not take part in it in the future.

Our aim here is not to reply to al-Qadhdhafi, because al-Qadhdhafi's words and statements, given the fact that they are so numerous and contradictory, no longer draw the attention of anyone, and they do not deserve a response from anyone. Likewise, our aim is not to stress the prestige of Mauritania, or to point out its permanent

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and firm role in the development of the Palestinian problem, because this role is known and recognized by all. It suffices for Mauritania that it has never done anything liable to cause damage to the Palestinian cause. Al-Qadhdhafi is free to describe Mauritania as he wants, even though Mauritania has always been keen to maintain fraternal relations between it and the fraternal Libyan people. [passage omitted]

Let us only ask ourselves who is al-Qadhdhafi, who is allowing himself to describe Mauritania the way he did, and is today pretending to espouse positions that are a far cry from his real objectives. Isn't he the one who, since creeping into power, by his repulsive positions and practices has been pushing people to seek shelter under the umbrella of those he now claims to be standing against and is hostile to? Isn't he the one who has spent his life and the resources of his country making himself a cancer, eating into the body of the Arab nation and Africa? Did he not organize, arm, train, and finance what he calls the Islamic legions to sow the seeds of chaos and dispute throughout the continent? Did he not spend money and mobilize troops to plant agents in all the fraternal African countries to destabilize security and stability in the continent? Did not he play the role of a cancer in the body of the Arab nation too, standing, as he did, in the way of every attempt to bring about inter-Arab reconciliation, and who was the dissenting voice in the Arab consensus, feeding conspiracies and acts of division between Arabs? [passage omitted]

Yes, al-Qadhdhafi—and we bear witness to this fact—was the best ally of the enemies of the Arab nation and the dark continent, and no doubt history will preserve this for him. The freedom and development of peoples are indeed the opposite of what al-Qadhdhafi has devoted his life to: chaos, sedition, sowing the seeds of division, and hatred between peoples.

Al-Qadhdhafi is free to deal insults and accusations, because in fact he is no good at anything else. Has he forgotten—he who is today talking about battles and issues—that in his lifetime he has fought just one battle, the well-known battle of Wadi Dom, the outcome of which should have prevented him today from talking about wars and heroism. [passage omitted]

Has he offered the Palestinians more than attempts to fragment their ranks, discourage their determination, and plant knives in their backs? Has not al-Qadhdhafi sought to abort every serious political initiative by the Palestinian leadership and organizations if they did not fit with his childish whims and chaotic tendencies? Is not the best evidence to this the fact that whenever those who are concerned with the problem, in the first place, try to show independence of opinion and positions, al-Qadhdhafi strongly criticizes them, threatens them, and expels them from the Arab Libyan territory?

We understand al-Qadhdhafi's bitterness and disappointment, because he has spent his life and the money of his country mobilizing agents to carry out his whims and plans at the expense of the peoples of the region and in the end has reaped only failure and isolation. It is quite natural he should be beset with frustration and bitterness. In conclusion, history will preserve for al-Qadhdhafi his positions. It will preserve for him all his attempts to mess about with an issue that brought Arabs together and gained the consensus of all those who are for justice and peace in the world. Likewise, history will not forget Mauritania's positions and those of its leadership to an issue which is first and foremost the issue of the Palestinians, even though it is also that of all Arabs.

Mauritania does not need a certificate of good behavior from al-Qadhdhafi, whose own behavior is known to all. Mauritania will remain loyal to itself and support all who serve the Palestinians and the Arabs.

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Bahrain

Britain's Hurd Departs Manama for Saudi Arabia

JN1310102094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 13 Oct (WAKH)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his delegation left Manama for Saudi Arabia this morning, winding up a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of Gulf Cooperation Council capitals.

During the visit, the British secretary held discussions on bilateral relations and the current regional developments, especially the situation on the Kuwait-Iraq border and Britain's stand on this crisis. The talks also dealt with Arab and international issues, the Middle East peace process, and issues of joint interest.

Kuwait

Official: 'Diplomatic Solution' to Crisis Indicated

NC1310123094 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Report by Lachlan Carmichael]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 13 (AFP)—Kuwaitis, who had wanted to punish Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, appeared resigned Thursday [13 October] to a peaceful end to the new Gulf crisis despite the continued allied military buildup.

"The evidence points toward a diplomatic solution," although nothing has been decided yet, a Kuwaiti official told AFP.

The official, who requested anonymity, said this was the assessment that emerged from meetings Wednesday among Gulf leaders, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Prospects for a military confrontation have diminished with allied confirmation of broad Iraqi troops withdrawals from the area near the Kuwait border and debate in the United Nations about other methods to contain Saddam's army.

The official said that from a strategic point of view, the best solution is to eliminate Saddam since he refuses to give up his claim on Kuwait.

Most Kuwaitis simply want to teach Saddam a lesson for the suffering caused during the 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait. A woman told AFP Tuesday she was hoping for a US military strike because the Iraqi leader "needs to be given a bloody nose."

But Kuwaiti newspapers announced that the possibility of a military strike had receded even though hundreds more US and British troops were due to arrive in Kuwait Thursday.

"The battle is now on the diplomatic side," the pro-government newspaper AL-WATAN said.

Faced with French opposition, the United States has backed down on a suggestion that the UN Security Council establish a zone barring Iraqi ground forces south of the 32nd parallel, an area comprising roughly a third of the country.

A US diplomat in New York said that Washington was instead pushing for a Security Council resolution calling on Iraq to withdraw its forces to the positions they held before the border buildup that began October 7.

"The possibility of a military confrontation is receding," AL-WATAN said.

"The United States are studying closely all the possibilities to contain Saddam Husayn's military and stop him from any other conflict that might disturb the region," it added.

The AL-SIYASAH newspaper, which is close to the government, said even "the number of foreign troops has a diplomatic aim because it shows Saddam Husayn that international law should be implemented."

US officials, warning that Baghdad cannot be trusted, said there are no plans to change orders to deploy around 40,000 troops to the Gulf.

Several newspapers expressed fears that if there were a demilitarized zone established deep inside Iraq, it might allow Iran to exploit the power vaccuum.

Most of the 634,000 Kuwaitis are Sunni Moslems, although there is a Shiite minority who sympathize with their co-religionists living across the border in southern Iraq.

"The demilitarized zone would need the cooperation of Iran," the AL-QABAS daily said.

Kuwaiti officials will discuss the diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis during a visit here Friday by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Iraq Said Not Fully Withdrawing, Exploiting Media

LD1310190294 Kuwait KSC Television in English 1700 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of information, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, has warned that the Iraqi regime is exploiting the international media by claiming that the Iraqi people, especially children, were dying from the lack of food and medicine. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the local Arab and international media representatives, the minister of information said: At the time when the Iraqi regime claimed the lack of food and medicine, it has mobilized over four divisions and provided them with medical treatment and food.

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[Begin al-Sabah recording] May I once again welcome you all to Kuwait and express to you all our deep sense of appreciation and thanks for all interest that you have had in the crisis that is going on in Kuwait, and also express to you our readiness to assist whenever possible to facilitate your tasks. We believe in the role of the media is no less a role as our free military here [sentence as heard]. We have made it quite clear to everyone that we do have free and unrestricted access to all the reporting that you have—the reporting that you have to make back home—and we will do whatever we can to facilitate that. You have witnessed first hand all the necessary measures taken by Kuwait with regard to deter any possible aggression by the Iraqis.

To update you on the issue here, we would like to confirm that we have witnessed some withdrawal of Iraqi troops back north from their existing positions, and some movements of existing divisions within the boundaries, but that does not mean that there is total withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the borders. I will put it in a very clear and unequivocal way: that we regard their positions are too close for comfort and we would like to see them back where they were before they mobilized their forces.

I have also witnessed that the Iraqi regime once again has exploited and utilized international news media with regard to gaining the sympathy of the world, in showing the sufferings of the Iraqi children and the Iraqi people as a result of the sanctions. Let me tell you, we are as horrified as everyone in the world to what is going on in Iraq. The treatment of the Iraqi regime to their people is as horrifying to us as to anyone in the world. The treatment of the Iraqi regime to their own people in the north, when they bombed them with chemical weapons, is as horrifying to us as anyone else. The total torture and mass executions that took place in Kuwait during the occupation of Iraq is as horrifying as we are seeing today.

So let me caution you here again once more, that the Iraqi regime is again utilizing and exploiting the international media to gain sympathy around the world. It is not the responsibility of the international community, it is not the responsibility of the Security Council, and it is not our responsibility that the Iraqi regime continues to refuse to implement Security Council resolutions, including resolution 706 and 712, with regard to the importation of medical equipment and food. We know very well that there is plenty of medicine in Iraq. We know very well there are plenty of food in Iraq, but that food and medicine has been reserved for the regime and their cronies. We have seen the fat cats of Iraq travelling around the world. They look as healthy, as fat as anyone else, so do not come and tell me that the Iraqi people are suffering from this because of shortage of food and medicine.

Therefore, we are saying it in a very clear way here, that Iraq has the choice and has the opportunity to import whatever they would need with regard to humanitarian goods. What concerns us—and which we have warned of many, many times before—is that Iraq is breaking the sanctions with regard to importing military equipments, spare parts, ammunition, and our cause and our calls that have been made have been confirmed again when we saw how Iraq was able to mobilize more than four divisions south to Kuwait.

How can they do this while they see their own children, as we saw it on television, dying of disease, lack of medicine. I just cannot understand how they could provide medical treatment, food for over 80,000 soldiers at our borders, and they cannot provide medicine and treatment and food for their own kids in hospitals. I would like to hear the views of the international media when they broadcast such propaganda by the Iraqis and be exploited by the Iraqi regime.

Again, I saw on television, the railroads that had tanks rolling upon them. Clearly they are withdrawing from the area. We know for sure that the railroads only exist from the area of, from al-Zubayr north, and that footage and that clipping was not provided directly by the news media that exists in Iraq, but by the Iraqi Government media, and has been heard in the international media.

Again, I am warning against this fact, that while there is free access and free and unrestricted media coverage in Kuwait, the media in Iraq is being manipulated and is being exploited by the Iraqi Government media control. These facts I would reiterate—to be cautious and to be fair in the reporting. Having said this, the situation as we see it now, that we are closely monitoring the movements, as I said before, some units have been withdrawn north, are as not close to the borders as they were before, but there has not been a total withdrawal, specially of the all elements of the elite force of the Iraqi Revolutionary Guards.

I just wanted to make those few remarks tonight with you here and again to—if any of you would like to pose any few questions here, I would be more than happy to respond. But, as a footnote here, do not fall victims to the Iraqi propaganda and try to win sympathy. The blame rests solely on the Iraqi regime's practices and patterns. Patterns of torture and patterns of behavior which is inconsistent with international norms. [end recording]

Government To Refute 'Stateless' Allegations

JN1310160294 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Oct 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Salim al-Wawan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to high-level Kuwaiti sources, the planned sit-in by a number of the stateless on the Iraq-Kuwait border will be countered by a vigorous Kuwaiti diplomatic offensive at the United Nations. Kuwait, said the sources, will refute the allegations, promoted by the Iraqi regime, concerning the

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stateless persons. Kuwait says whoever claims to be Kuwaiti or owns property to associate him with the country will have to produce evidence. Failing that, these will prove to be pointless allegations and amount to a new attempt by the desperate Iraqi regime to attract attention. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Defense Secretary Perry

LD1310194894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today received at his office His Excellency William Perry, the U.S. secretary of defense, and the delegation accompanying him.

King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his excellency the U.S. secretary of defense discussed the overall current developments within the Middle East region.

His majesty listened to the views expressed by his excellency about the various issues of mutual interest, which are the subject of full agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Perry

LD1410003294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0010 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, received at his palace in Jeddah this evening William Perry, the American secretary of defense, and his accompanying delegation.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a meeting with His Excellency the U.S. defense secretary. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives UK Foreign Secretary Hurd

LD1310194594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today received at his office His Excellency Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary of state, and the accompanying delegation. The British foreign secretary conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques greetings and considerations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, queen of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and His Excellency Prime Minister John Major.

His Majesty the beloved King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz asked the foreign secretary to convey his greetings and best wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Crown Prince [as heard], and his excellency the prime minister.

During the meeting the general situation and the emerging developments on the Arab and international scenes were discussed. Their viewpoints were identical about all the topics touched during the discussion. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Amir Briefs King on Latest Developments

LD1410002094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2355 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 14 Oct, (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, servant of the two holy places, received a telephone call from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, who briefed him on the situation and the current development in general.

Editorial Favors 'Preemptive Strike' To Deter Saddam

JN1310194594 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Deter Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Arabi has reiterated its support for the sisterly state of Kuwait as it firmly faces the Iraqi regime's provocative movement of the Republican Guard toward the border with Kuwait.

Translating the kingdom's support for Kuwait, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has directed that all preparations be made to deter or confront any aggression by the Iraqi regime. This is in addition to the support declared by the Council of Ministers chaired by His highness the crown prince—the day before yesterday—for whatever firm steps the international community deems necessary to establish security, stability, and peace in the region, which is being threatened by the very existence and policies of the evil aggressive ruling regime in Iraq. Regional insecurity and instability will persist as long as the rulers of Iraq remain in power.

Saudi Arabia's firm stand fits in nicely with its historic confrontation of the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Saudi Arabia's firm position is derived from firm and fundamental principles deeply rooted in the conscience of the leadership and people of the kingdom. These boil down to a championing and upholding of right and justice.

As a Saudi newspaper committed to these principles, we lend our support to Kuwaiti newspaper editors' call on the international community to deal a preemptive and devastating strike to Saddam Husayn's military arsenal,

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especially given that his latest action reveals that in the four years since he invaded Kuwait he has been piling up weapons.

Judging by his latest move, obviously Saddam Husayn and his gang have since the invasion been engaged in the same tactics of deception and trickery. They have been withholding the whereabouts of their arms depots, which may still incorporate banned chemical and biological weapons.

The Iraqi regime has furnished physical evidence that it has not complied convincingly with the UN Security Council cease-fire resolutions.

Thus, brute force must be used if Saddam is to bow to the will of the international community.

Yemen

President Salih on Unity, Ties With Saudi Arabia

MM1310152594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Khayrallah Khayrallah on 7 October in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khayrallah] What are the tasks of the new government?

[Salih] The new government has a number of urgent tasks, especially the tasks of remedying the effects of the secession crime and rebuilding what was destroyed in the war triggered by the traitors who rebelled against constitutional legitimacy with the aim of tearing the homeland apart and destroying its unity. They also include finding the appropriate remedies for the current economic situation with a view to raising the public's living standards and freeing the national economy from the shackles impeding its development. That is in addition to the numerous major political, economic, social, cultural, and administrative tasks aimed at fighting corruption, mending the defects which appeared during and after the transitional period as a result of the practices of the secessionists, wherever they happened to be in government departments, and implementation of the local government system in accordance with the new constitutional amendments and the laws which will be promulgated on that basis. Externally, the new government's most important tasks will be to work for the strengthening and enhancement of fraternal relations with the neighboring states and for the restoration of Arab solidarity.

[Khayrallah] What is preventing an amnesty for the 16 [south Yemeni leaders]?

[Salih] Those people were the cause of the sedition and war and they committed the crime of secession, and they continue to plot against unity. When they correct their position, condemn the crime of secession, and stop plotting against unity, the matter then could be considered by the appropriate state authorities.

[Khayrallah] Why did you exclude the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] from the government?

[Salih] That was natural in these circumstances. The public interest requires that we give the YSP ample time to reorganize itself and to rid itself of the secessionist elements. Furthermore, the YSP has itself expressed a desire to be in opposition. We understand that and are prepared to continue the dialogue, because it is one of the parties present in the arena in the context of political and partisan pluralism. We are currently cooperating with the YSP's new political bureau and all the unionist elements in it. The socialist bloc deputies contributed positively to the recent constitutional amendments.

[Khayrallah] Is it true that you have requested extradition of the 16 figures?

[Salih] Yes, we did, because under the law they are wanted for trial. They would get a fair trial.

[Khayrallah] How do you answer the U.S. criticism regarding cooperation with Iraq?

[Salih] We have informed our friends in the United States that there is no cooperation with Iraq beyond what is stipulated in the UN resolutions.

[Khayrallah] What, in your view, was the decisive factor in the Yemeni war?

[Salih] The decisive factor which the secessionists did not take into consideration was the Yemeni people. The Yemeni people see unity as their fate and destiny. When that was achieved on 22 May 1990, the Yemeni people saw it as their greatest victory and most precious achievement after the reigns of the imams, the colonialist rule, and the divided rule. The secession was an attempt to destroy all that was bright and beautiful in the life of the Yemeni people, past, present, and future. That is why all the Yemeni people took an unparalleled stand against the secession crime and, with God's help, were able to foil the plot and safeguard their unity.

[Khayrallah] There are many complaints about injustices in the South. How true are they?

[Salih] First of all, there is no such thing as North and South. There is one Yemeni people, generally united throughout the ages. What you have mentioned are nothing more than fabrications spread by secessionist agents abroad in the course of their continuing plot against unity. They are fabrications refuted by the reality and facts of the new life which has brought freedom to the governorates of Aden, Lahij, Abyan, Hadramaut, Shabwah, and al-Maharah, which suffered considerably from the secessionists' repression and hegemony. There is no need to talk much about this matter. You only have to visit these governorates and meet with any members of the public or the government to know the truth as it

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really is without further ado. Unity was these governorates' salvation from the nightmare of totalitarian, partisan tyranny and hegemony, and it ended the state of deprivation they suffered under that regime.

[Khayrallah] Has there been any improvement in relations between Yemen and the neighboring states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? And how would you reassure the neighbors?

[Salih] Since the end of the Gulf war we have been making continuous efforts to improve relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states and to strengthen relations with the states of the Horn of Africa, because of the special nature of these relations and the historical links we have with these states. After the last Yemeni war we frequently declared our willingness to turn over the old page and start a new one in our relations with Saudi Arabia and the neighboring states, because none of us can do without the other and none can deny the other's existence. We repeatedly emphasized that Yemen's unity was an indispensible contribution to the consolidation of security, stability, and peace in the region and that we wanted nothing from others except fraternal ties based on the principles of good nieghborliness, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and the development of joint cooperation. We called for an intensification of direct contacts to correct whatever wrong concepts there were here or there. Recently, in my first speech after the constitutional amendments and my election as president by the House of Representatives, I declared that understanding and dialogue were in everyone's interest and in the interest of our countries. I also announced cessation of the media campaign between us and our brothers in Saudi Arabia, to create the right atmosphere for the restoration of relations to what they were before. We have directed the new government to make the improvement of relations with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and the neighboring countries one of its priorities. We hope that the leaders of these states will reciprocate these fraternal sentiments.

[Khayrallah] Do you not fear the [Yemeni] Reform [Grouping] [YRG] or the emergence of an extremist faction in it that would try to seize power?

[Salih] The YRG is a patriotic party in the national arena and it carries out its political activities within the framework of political and partisan pluralism. It believes in the inalienable national principles and in the peaceful transfer of power in accordance with the democratic process we have all chosen. On that basis it has a right to achieve power if it wins the votes of the electorate through the ballot box, just like any other party. We are confident about the existing sound relations between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the YRG because they are based on the constant ideological and national principles which are the common denominator among all members of the two organizations.

[Khayrallah] Is it true that those who destroyed the monuments in Aden have been released?

[Salih] That is not true. They are now the responsibility of the public prosecution service, which is legally bound to supervise and interrogate and to bring them to trial. The judiciary will have the final responsibility and the final say. Ours is a state of institutions, where law and order are the only criterion.

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UN Security Council Postpones Decision on Embargo

JN1310213594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2006 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations, 13 Oct (INA)—Western diplomats have said that the UN Security Council today discussed two reports that include positive points regarding Iraq. However, the UN Security Council is not expected to make a decision regarding the embargo because of the recent crisis. It has postponed making a decision on this issue until November.

A UN spokesman said that the 15 members of the UN Security Council discussed a semi-annual report presented by a UN special commission charged with disarming Iraq and a document presented by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The report emphasized the progress Iraq has made since November 1993 in the field of disarmament. It officially announced that the system of long-term monitoring and verification of Iraqi military capabilities carried out by the special committee is operating on a temporary basis.

The document of the IAEA, which opened a permanent office in Iraq at the end of August, concludes by saying that all elements of its plan have now been accomplished.

UNSC President Comments After Meeting

JN1410002794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] David Hannay, British representative to the United Nations and current president of the UN Security Council [UNSC], has asserted that Ambassador Ekeus informed the UNSC members today that the UN Special Commission's personnel and activities have not been impeded, and that Iraq's cooperation with the commission is continuing.

In a statement to reporters, Hannay added: The UNSC has held deliberations. During these deliberations, Ambassador Ekeus submitted his report to the UNSC members. The UNSC deliberations were good. The members agreed not to make a specific decision on the report at this point in time.

Hannay went on to say: The cooperation the Iraqis have extended is good. The report submitted by Ekeus noted this cooperation. We expect that this cooperation will continue to be demonstrated in the future. Ambassador Ekeus spoke of months. He will deliver a briefing to the UNSC on relevant developments on a monthly basis and will submit a written report within six months; that is, on or around 10 April 1995.

British Envoy Hannay declined to answer a question on the U.S. plan to create a ground military exclusion zone in Iraq, saying: The UNSC has debated the report submitted by Ekeus, and nothing else. With regard to the British position on this issue, I have nothing to add to the statement made by Mr. Hurd in Bahrain today.

When asked about an Iraqi argument that Iraq will halt its cooperation with the UN Special Commission if the sanctions are not revoked, Hannay said: The UNSC's answer to this was contained in a statement issued by the UNSC president on Saturday, 8 October, stating that the qualified cooperation is unacceptable, and that the mission of the UN Special Commission is vital. In this statement, the UNSC urged Iraq to continue to cooperate with the Commission. Today's deliberations had nothing to do with the sanctions. They concerned the work of the UN Special Commission. The sanctions are reviewed every 60 days. The next periodic review session will be held in mid-November.

David Hannay declined to comment on statements made by the French minister of state for defense and the U.S. envoy [to the United Nations], in which she assailed the French minister of state for defense, saying: I do not think that it is the job of the UNSC president to comment on statements made by a cabinet member of another member of the UNSC. I will not answer this question. As a matter of fact, Ambassador Ekeus indicated that if the cooperation that Iraq has extended over the past few months remains unchanged, then there is room for optimism. Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission is vital.

When queried about the possibility of the UNSC lifting the oil embargo after six months if Iraq's cooperation is found to be one hundred percent successful, British Envoy Hanny evaded an answer to this question, saying: I cannot answer this question. Besides, I will not be the UNSC president in April 1995.

Ekeus: 'We Have Found and Destroyed All Missiles'

AU1310140194 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 13 Oct 94 p 6

["ulf."-attributed report: "Ekeus: New Sanctions Are Difficult To Impose"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, in October—Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, special envoy of the UN Supervisory Commission for the destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (UNSCOM), said in an interview with this newspaper that, "once the sanctions against Iraq are lifted, it will be difficult to get new sanctions accepted by the international community if Baghdad once again refuses to respect international law." He criticized Iraq's lack of "readiness to cooperate" with UNSCOM. Ekeus said that since the end of the war for the liberation of Kuwait, the Allies had repeatedly had to force Iraq to cooperate by threatening force. "The Iraqis continue to withhold documents from us. This of course prolongs the period for which the sanctions will remain effective."

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The Iraqis were making the "smallest possible concessions required for consensus." Ekeus said he believed that "as soon as the sanctions are lifted" the regime would no longer be "under pressure to cooperate." When the Iraqi chemical weapons were being destroyed the Iraqis also withheld documents from him time and again, he said. According to Ekeus, "the Iraqis had large quantities of toxic gases in Mutanah, which was one of the most dangerous places in the world."

"Since the production of short-range missiles was never prohibited, the Iraqis continue to produce such weapons and improve their technology," the diplomat said. Under the UN resolutions, Iraq is permitted to have missiles with a range of up to 150 km. While "the large number of documents found" had given the UNSCOM inspection teams "a good survey of the Iraqi projects in the nuclear area, the issue of the destruction of Iraqi Scud missiles was "problematic." "Unlike CIA Director Woolsey, we hold the view that we have found and destroyed all missiles." However, the biggest problem is that "the documents we found give the precise number of Scuds produced in Iraq, whereas there are only imprecise data on how many were used in the Iraq-Iran war and in the Kuwait war; we would have to cancel these from our lists." Ekeus said he believed that UNSCOM has "found all" of Iraq's missile production facilities and has destroyed "the most important ones."

Ekeus added that even though Iraq had been defeated by the Allies, its "Air Force and armored units" were "still intact." The numerous MiG's and the Army's military hardware had not been destroyed "because one did not want to have a security vacuum in the region." Iraq should have "the right to be able to defend itself." That is why the Iraqi Air Force is permitted to fly outside the flight ban zones north of the 36th and south of the 32nd latitudes. Iraqi units are also permitted to approach the Kuwaiti borders up to 10 kilometers. In the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border area, the demilitarized zone is controlled by a UN special commission, UNIKOM, which is based at Um al-Qasr at the border.

Having taken stock of, and destroyed part of Iraq's weapons, UNSCOM will now begin with the long-term supervision of the Iraqi arms capabilities. To this end, it has set up a security department at the UN headquarters in Baghdad. Behind its doors, there are rooms equipped with monitors showing pictures taken by radio- controlled cameras in Iraqi arms production facilities. The Iraqi arms production as well as its fertilizer production will be monitored by cameras. So far, UNSCOM has installed a total of 50 cameras in seven Iraqi factories that will monitor "particularly sensitive" Iraqi arms factories over the long term. However, Ekeus admitted that it "will be difficult to monitor what is taken from Baghdad to Basra in trucks." "There will be no absolute security," one of his aides said.

Radio Reports U.S. 'Backed Down' on Exclusion Zone

JN1310113294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the United Nations Headquarters in New York indicate that the U.S. Administration has backed down on its demand to impose a exclusion zone, in which Iraqi heavy weapons would be banned in the south of al-Basrah.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright had proposed a draft resolution to set up a ground exclusion zone in the southern area in which Iraqi weapons would be banned. The U.S. proposal, however, met with strong opposition, particularly from France.

A senior U.S. official, who asked to remain anonymous, said the United States will urge the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution demanding the return of the Republican Guard forces to the positions in which they were deployed before the recent crisis started. This new U.S. proposal was discussed in a meeting held by the envoys of the five permanent UN Security Council members yesterday.

London Radio today reported that the Americans are now denying that they considered any plan to set up a exclusion zone in southern Iraq in which Iraqi heavy weapons would be banned.

Despite the fact that Madeleine Albright, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, proposed the idea in public two days ago, she today backed down and said: In fact, we are facing a strong man, that is Saddam Husayn, and we must consider other means to achieve our goals.

London Radio added: At any rate, the Americans were forced to retreat after France and Britain rejected the U.S. proposal. The superpowers seemed undetermined about the policy which they should adopt to face Iraq.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and the Kuwaiti rulers were angered by the United States' incompetence in the diplomatic field and the U.S. Government's assertion that there are no easy ways out. They were also angered by the fact that France and Russia joined together in a front demanding an end to the embargo against Iraq because it had cooperated with the inspection teams.

The recent French official position caused dismay and disappointment among the Saudis. The French Government criticized the U.S. policy toward Iraq and said the U.S. military deployments in the Gulf seek to achieve domestic political goals. France also announced that it opposes Washington's proposal to set up a exclusion zone in southern Iraq.

French Defense Minister Francois Leotard stressed that Iraq did not violate the UN resolutions when it moved its troops within the boundaries of Iraq.

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Clinton Cited on Troop Withdrawal From South

JN1310222394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2134 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 13 Oct (INA)—U.S. President Bill Clinton today acknowledged the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from southern Iraq. He expressed satisfaction that the withdrawal started by Iraqi troops, saying it was massive.

AFP quoted the U.S. President as saying that the Iraqi troops began a massive withdrawal from the area. Meanwhile, a senior official of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Pentagon, has asserted that his department is considering a reduction in the number of troops it planned to send to the Arabian Gulf.

This came in statements Clinton made via satellite to officials of U.S. radio and television networks today.

Baghdad stated yesterday, Wednesday, that the withdrawal of its troops from southern Iraq had been completed.

In a related development, a senior Pentagon official said that the plans to deploy 19,000 U.S. marines posted at Camp Pendleton in California have been reconsidered. The official added that only 7,000 marines will leave this base for the Middle East.

Another Pentagon official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that the assault troops affiliated with the 101st Airborne Division from Kentucky's Fort Campbell will remain on alert, but will not be deployed.

Meanwhile, General Binford Peay, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, which is charged with missions in the Gulf in accordance with a U.S. assignment of missions throughout the world, told the television network NBC that the United States has eased the pace of deployment of its troops in the Gulf.

Albright Cited on French Statements on Gulf Tension

JN1310183194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1801 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 13 Oct (INA)—Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has strongly assailed French Minister of State for Defense Francois Leotard, saying that he lacks relevant information.

In a statement to reporters, Albright said that the French minister of state for defense is lacking in information. She added that the statements that he has made to the effect that the U.S. military buildup is meant to promote domestic concerns are both unconstructive and worthless.

Albright expressed her dissatisfaction with the recent French statements, saying that these statements have elicited the satisfaction of the "Iraqi regime" as she put it.

The U.S. ambassador claimed that the U.S.-French differences on Iraq are "minor." Nonetheless, she charged that certain states which she declined to name have "trade interests with Iraq."

Source Says One Division in al-Nasiriyah Since '91

JN1410111794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1057 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—An official Iraqi source said today that a Republican Guard division has been stationed in a camp near al-Nasiriyah, over 200 km away from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, since 1991.

In a statement to INA, the source said that the U.S. Administration deliberately confuses geographic information in order to continue stepping up the tension after the appearance of obvious signs of abatement.

The source was commenting on an allegation by a U.S. Defense Department source today that Iraq is slowing down the transfer of forces from the region close to the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait and that some of these forces have stopped in al-Nasiriyah.

Baghdad Radio Notes U.S. Media's 'Changed' Tone

JN1310213494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been observed that U.S. media changed their tone toward Iraq today, Thursday. The U.S. media are now reporting on the Russian diplomatic efforts and on both the French and Turkish stands in favor of Iraq. The U.S. media also presented in a clear fashion the U.S. retreat from its proposal to ban heavy Iraqi weapons in the south.

It has also been observed that some U.S. newspapers refer to the leader President Saddam Husayn as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in their reporting on Iraq instead of their previous tone when they referred to him as Saddam Husayn only.

The U.S. newspapers today said that the United States is seeking a plan, in accordance with which, it will ask Iraq to withdraw the Presidential Guard units only and to keep other units of the Army [words indistinct] 50,000 soldiers in the south. THE NEW YORK TIMES says, in this regard, that one of the signs of the split in the coalition against Iraq is France's criticism of the Clinton administration's deployment of the U.S. Forces for American domestic purposes only.

The U.S. newspapers noted that White House and Pentagon officials began to distance themselves from U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry's proposal to set up a large-scale military exclusion zone in southern Iraq. THE NEW YORK TIMES said in this regard: Officials say that the administration rejected the idea of a military

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exclusion zone because setting up this zone would encourage President Saddam Husayn to test U.S. resolve by sending one or two tanks to the area to see what this administration would do. The newspaper adds that the other reason for U.S. rejection of the idea is the fact that the military exclusion zone would create a military vacuum that would encourage Iran to (?launch an attack). THE NEW YORK TIMES adds that contrary to the expectations of the U.S. Administration, the sanctions have reinforced the position of President Saddam Husayn. The paper says that pressure will increase to ease the sanctions.

THE NEW YORK TIMES speaks amply about Iraq's contacts with Russia, France, and PRC, trade relations with these countries, trade delegations' visits to Iraq, and the current Iraqi oil minister's visit to Moscow.

Russia's Kozyrev Arrives in Baghdad for Talks

To Discuss Gulf Developments

JN1310131494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq. Kozyrev was received upon arrival by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf; Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister; the Russian ambassador in Baghdad; and the Russian embassy staff.

Kozyrev arrived in Baghdad aboard an Aeroflot airplane on a direct flight from Moscow to Baghdad.

Before leaving Moscow for Baghdad, the Russian foreign minister said he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on the latest developments in the region.

Joint Statement Issued

JN1310210994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2029 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother listeners: Leader President Saddam Husayn received this evening, 13 October 1994, Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation and envoy of Russian President Mr. Boris Yeltsin. They discussed, during the meeting, the situation in the Gulf and the current status of relations between Iraq and Russia.

The following joint statement was issued after the meeting:

Russia has called for adopting decisive steps to prevent the escalation of the situation and to return the situation to the course of political and diplomatic efforts. These efforts will eventually lead to achieving solid security and stability in the region, to the cancellation of the sanctions imposed on Iraq, and to setting up good-neighborly relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

Some practical procedures were discussed to establish confidence among regional states to help remove mutual distrust and create an atmosphere of confidence among them. Iraq officially announced that at 2100 [1800 GMT] on 12 October 1994 it completed the movement of its forces to the rear. Russia greatly valued this step by the Iraqi side. Iraq stressed its readiness to solve the issue of recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and borders which were decided according to Security Council Resolution 833 in a positive manner.

Once Iraq officially recognizes the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait, Russia will support efforts to set a date for the official beginning of the operation of the long-term monitoring system, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 715. Similarly, it will support the beginning of a specific probationary period to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring system. Once this period ends, which Russia believes should not exceed six months, the UN Security Council will pass a resolution providing for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 in full and without any additional conditions.

Russia has reiterated that it will support the revocation of other sanctions in light of the progress Iraq makes toward the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Iraq has stated its willingness to continue to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross to determine the fate of the missing Kuwaiti citizens. Kozyrev noted the special importance Russia attaches to this humanitarian issue.

Kozyrev Holds News Conference

JN1410105894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy, has stressed that the decision made by President Saddam Husayn in order to resolve the current crisis is a brave political decision which will enhance prospects of regional stability.

In a news conference today with correspondents of Arab and foreign television and radio networks, news agencies, press, and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Kozyrev said that yesterday's joint statement by Iraq and Russia will pave the way for building good, neighborly relations between all countries of the region, noting that such relations are the guarantee for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of regional states, including Kuwait and Iraq.

The Russian foreign minister said that Iraq is an important state in the region with a history which dates back thousands of years and will continue for thousands of years to come.

He said that on this basis and on the same bases that have been agreed on in the joint statement, Russia will

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bolster its relations with Iraq, noting that this is Russia's guarantee for Iraq to resolve the current crisis and restore regional stability.

Russian Military Attache Confirms Troop Withdrawal

JN1310223694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2138 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Colonel Vladimir Storojok [name as transliterated], Russian military attach in Baghdad, has said that Iraqi troops were conducting military training and exercises in the city of al-Basrah, which are ordinary activities marking the daily life of military units.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY tonight regarding his impressions after his visit to the city of al-Basrah, during which he watched the military units that took part in these military exercises, Col. Storojok added that he saw a large number of heavy transporters usually used to carry tanks and armored vehicles from areas where military exercises are conducted to areas of permanent posting.

The Russian military attache added: The Iraqi military command is honoring its promises regarding the withdrawal of its military units from southern areas in Iraq. It has returned these units to their previous positions.

Hammadi Defends Deployment as 'Military Exercise'

OW1410090094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct. 14 KYODO—Iraq's Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has defended his country's troop deployments to the border with Kuwait, saying they were a military exercise.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Thursday [13 October], Hammadi also dismissed allegations that the movements were aimed to strongarm the United Nations into lifting its crippling sanctions against Iraq, put in place following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The minister accused the United States of playing up the exercise to create a pretext to attack Iraq.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, wary that Iraq will repeat its invasion of the oil-rich Shaykhdom, earlier this week ordered a buildup of defense forces in Kuwait and the Persian Gulf region to counter the Iraqi amassment.

Pointing to a statement by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Hammadi welcomed the dropping of a U.S. proposal to form a military exclusion zone in southern Iraq analogous to the one in the north. France, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, was opposed to the idea.

The U.S., in a Wednesday meeting with Britain, China, France and Russia, the four other permanent council members, proposed a resolution setting a maximum limit for troop strength in the region.

While acknowledging that he had not seen the U.S. plan, Hammadi said given what he had heard, it was totally unacceptable to Iraq.

He hailed Moscow's dispatch of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Baghdad to mediate between Iraq and the United Nations.

Following a meeting Thursday between Kozyrev and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Baghdad agreed to a Russian peace plan that calls for Iraqi acceptance of Kuwait's borders as established after the Gulf war, a key condition for the lifting of UN sanctions.

'People With Rights' Holds Rallies To Explain Cause

JN1310151294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 13 Oct (INA)—The League of People With Rights has organized seminars in its camp, south of al-Basrah, to explain the objectives of the league and the just cause of the Kuwaiti deportees.

Shaykh Nayif al-Ghanim, official spokesman of the league, reviewed, during the seminars, the programs and plans prepared by the league to achieve its legitimate objectives, as well as to convey its cause to the United Nations and the other international organizations to ensure the return of Kuwaiti deportees to their homeland and to restore their legitimate rights usurped by the Kuwaiti regime.

Shaykh al-Ghanim said: Our gathering in this camp is the beginning of our return to our homeland to continue our role in building Kuwait. This role has been ignored by the rulers of Kuwait who deprived us of our property and expelled us from our land by force.

Representatives of popular Iraq organizations visited the camp and offered humanitarian assistance to the camp residents.

Paper Interviews Camp Residents

JN1310122194 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by an AL-QADISIYAH correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Southern al-Basrah—For the third day running AL-QADISIYAH has been following events at the camps in the southern al-Basrah desert where the League of People with Rights are staging a sit-in demanding their rights to return to their homeland, Kuwait. We saw thousands of people arriving at the these camps, which covered a big stretch of the desert, to

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join "the voice of justice" and to demand their legitimate rights to return to their homeland. The gates of the camps carried placards in Arabic and English calling on the international community and humanitarian organizations to return them to their homeland, Kuwait. Those interviewed declared their anger at and denunciation of the al-Sabah clique, which stole their funds and properties, plunged them into prisons, exposed them to savage torture, and leveled false accusations against them.

Among the main slogans posted were: "No to Bidun [stateless], Yes to Return," and "Wait and See Soon, O al-Sabah." We also observed the great care and attention being given to the campers by the competent authorities.

In an interviewed, citizen Salah al-Ramli, born in 1968 in al-Jahra', Kuwait, said: I was exposed to the most savage physical torture for no reason other than demanding my rights.

Citizen Madi Lafi, born in 1951 in Kuwait, said: I was born in Kuwait and I served in the Kuwaiti Army, where I received three medals for this service. My sons also served in the Army. However, in the end we were exposed to beatings in prison by the regime's henchmen there.

Citizen Taysir Nasir, born in 1969, said: After imprisonment and torture, I was expelled from Kuwait. All members of my family—my mother, father, and brothers—are still there. I do not know what has become of them. I inquired about them through the Red Cross, but to no avail.

500 Youths Volunteer for 'Saddam Commando Division'

JN1310121494 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 500 youths at the Youth Council headquarters in Maysan Governorate have signed their names to join the Saddam Commando Division [Firqat Fida'iyi Saddam] which has been formed by the Executive Bureau of the Iraqi General Youth Federation.

The chairman of the Youth Council in the governorate told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] that the doors were opened the day before yesterday [7 October] to receive youth volunteers, who expressed their full readiness to perform all types of tasks and duties which are required by the current phase in defense of great Iraq and the achievements of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

Meanwhile, more than 3,000 members of Iraqi Womens Federation branches and administrative bodies in Maysan Governorate have also expressed their readiness to carry out all types of duties in defense of Iraq's unity and sovereignty and to foil the intentions of the unfair blockade that the United States and its allies, the states of aggression, have imposed on Iraq.

The INA correspondent in the governorate explained that the volunteering took place at a women's meeting at the federation's branch office in al-'Amarah, where the women volunteers expressed their loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn.

People Continue To Volunteer To 'Defend' Country

JN1210230194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received several cables from members of the League of the Friends of leader President Saddam [words indistinct], renewing their support for him, as well as their absolute allegiance to his wise leadership. They vowed to remain ready to defend the pride and dignity of the dear homeland.

In a separate development, lofty Iraqis continued for the third consecutive day to volunteer to defend great Iraq.

Correspondents of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in the Iraqi governorates said that large numbers of members of mass and popular organizations, as well as tribal chieftains and notables announced their willingness to serve as volunteers at massive rallies and celebrations held at party and professional offices and premises in the provincial capitals.

Pro-Government Kurdish Party Urges War Volunteers

JN1210225494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party [KRP] has decided to allow party members and supporters to volunteer in defense of great Iraq and its victorious march, which is being spearheaded by leader President Saddam Husayn.

This has been announced to the Iraqi News Agency by a responsible source at the KRP's Political Bureau. The source added that the volunteers will have their names registered at the premises of the Political Bureau and party branches. Partisan committees in the governorates will also be involved in this endeavor.

The source reiterated that the party strugglers will be cutting swords in the right hand of leader Saddam Husayn, as they have always been in all their holy battles, particularly the glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the eternal showdown of the Mother of Battles.

INA Says Sanctions Caused 384,022 Fatalities

JN1310220694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Recent statistics compiled by the Ministry of Health have confirmed that 384,022 people from all age groups

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died between August 1990 and March 1994 as a result of the unfair sanctions clamped on the Iraqi people.

The statistics, supported by reports prepared by several physicians, specialists working at Harvard University, the WHO, and the UNICEF after visits to Iraq during which they were acquainted with the health conditions suffered by the Iraqi people, indicated that the number of children under five who died between January 1990 and March 1994 stood at 146,438, whereas the number of children over five who died during the same period stood at 257,421.

The statistics indicated that the monthly average for infant fatalities involving children under five in 1990 totaled 742. However, this figure rose to 2,289 in 1991, 3,911 in 1992, 4,147 in 1993, and 5,437 in January 1994. In February 1994, the average for infant deaths stood at 3,807. But in March, it totaled 4,023.

Relevant reports have shown that average monthly infant fatalities involving children over five stood at 1,963 in 1990. But, average fatalities for this age group rose to 4,872 in 1991, 6,377 in 1992, and 6,522 in 1993. In January 1994, infant fatalities for this age group totaled 6,654. In February 1994, it stood at 6,489. In March 1994, it totaled 7,457.

The reports attributed the increase in fatality rates to the deteriorating health conditions caused by the continued unfair sanctions, which produced sharp food and medicine shortages. It is to be recalled that Iraq was at the forefront of the world states in terms of the excellent health services provided for the population thanks to the sweeping programs it carried out in the context of maternity and child care plans during a five-year period extending from 1985-1990. [passage omitted]

People's Mood Marked by Saddam's Propaganda, Rumors

AU1410122194 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 14 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Udo Ulfkotte: "Iraqi Propaganda and Oriental Imagination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, in October—"Why does the United Nations prevent us from importing foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals?" the taxi driver Kassim asks the foreigner in Baghdad. Everywhere in Iraq, one is confronted with this question time and again. Actually, Kassim is a pharmacist, speaks good English, and drives a taxi 15 hours every day because he is in need. Like almost all Iraqis, the man, who is well educated for an Iraqi, does not know that food and drug imports are specifically excluded from the embargo, and the people's fate is only attributable to the unyielding stance of Saddam Husayn, who also rejects the UN conditions for oil exports. Public propaganda indoctrinates the people almost daily with the claim that the United Nations intends to "starve out the Iraqi people." Even Information Ministry officials who are the only ones permitted to watch foreign television programs staunchly believe the government statements at least on this issue. However, the only thing that is true about these claims is that there is a huge shortage of foodstuffs.

He who has to pass an AIDS test as an indispensable prerequisite for a residence permit sees the almost incredible need in hospitals. Doctors must look on helplessly as little children die of malnutrition and diarrhea for lack of medicine. The doctor who takes blood from the foreigner does not even have a band to block the veins, but instead uses an old and dirty infusion tube. One has to pay $50 for the AIDS test, however, this hard currency is not for the benefit of the hospital, which could use it to buy medicines, but must be paid into a government account with the state-run Rafidah Bank. The Iraqi doctors can hardly have failed to notice this, but obviously out of fear of the regime's henchmen, they do not dare to inform their patients, who urgently beg them for help. Asked why the hard currency is not for the hospital's benefit, the doctor only answers evasively: "Our government knows what is good for us." In front of the building, people visiting the patients are received by an oversized wall painting showing the dictator Saddam Husayn with a kindly smile, wishing a seriously ill man whose head and chest are bandaged good recovery. Most Iraqis obviously do not see the cynicism of this wall painting.

In the Baghdad shops for government employees, selling goods at preferential prices, bags of rice and canned vegetable oil are in stock that clearly bear the name of the UN World Food Program (WFP). New Zealand doctors who work in Iraq by UN mandate, criticize publicly that some of the international relief supplies for Iraq have "somehow, through intricate channels," got into the shops for the regime's favorites, whereas the people are starving. "They were not intended for sale. But the government obviously makes money with them," one of them says. However, the Iraqi people hardly notice these finesses. Whereas Saddam Husayn has his officials procure luxury goods for him via Jordan within 36 hours and is being criticized ever more frankly in the streets of the capital city, official propaganda on the sanctions seems to have had an effect.

"The people want to eat. They do not care about anything else," an engineer in Baghdad says. The Iraqis are apparently relieved that the imminent military conflict, which would have made their daily fight for survival even more difficult, has not taken place. However, by concentrating 80,000 troops along the Kuwaiti border, Saddam Husayn has succeeded in bringing the trade sanctions imposed after the Kuwait war into the limelight again.

The climate of distrust in Iraq is conducive to the emergence of rumors. Iraqis are often unable to distinguish between the truth and rumors. When a foreigner in a Baghdad tearoom asks the men holding their discussion there about any possible revolts in the Army or even

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an attempted putsch against Saddam Husayn, the answer will be no. However, from this tearoom, the question will swiftly spread throughout the country, so that the next foreigner several days later may hear this answer to the same question: "Yes, such rumors exist." Eventually, a journalist will also hear this rumor and will spread it abroad—possibly even enriched with the usual oriental embellishment. Judging by the number of rumors on alleged revolts, assassination attempts, and attempted coups in Iraq, one of the Iraqi dictator's alleged doubles should long have taken over power.

Ramadan Cited on Crossing the 'Bank of Victory'

JN1410123494 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 4 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has affirmed that the crossing which the Iraqis will achieve under leader President Saddam Husayn to the bank of victory will be a crossing for the whole Arab nation and a new starting point and gain in defense of its legitimate rights and the building of its strong future. Speaking during his meeting with Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Federation, Ramadan said that the Arab professional and popular organizations' adherence to their principles and continuous struggle for the sake of pan-Arab issues is an effective reply to and a rejection of all policies and stands which aim to undermine Arab will and to plant despair in the hearts of the sons of Arabdom. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Editor View Crisis, Sanctions

JN1410005194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1926 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Spotlight on the News" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Hello. How are you?

[Al-Mukhtar] I am fine.

[Correspondent] Is this Mr. Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH?

[Al-Mukhtar] Yes.

[Correspondent] You are most welcome.

[Al-Mukhtar] Thanks.

[Correspondent] This is the political section of Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network.

[Al-Mukhtar] You are most welcome.

[Correspondent] Sir, we would like to ask you some questions regarding the current crisis created by the U.S. Administration over the Iraqi Army movements. These questions concern the escalation deliberately sought by Washington, the causes of this escalation, and its continued efforts to send military personnel to the region at a time when everyone is well aware that Iraq has demonstrated an excellent response to the peaceful and diplomatic efforts made to defuse this crisis. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Mukhtar] As a matter of course, it can be said that the purpose and objective the United States sought to achieve through the fabricated current escalation, which produced a new crisis, was to prevent the UN Security Council from taking measures it should take in compliance with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 687 of 1992, Section C of this resolution.

The report Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons, included anti-Iraq bias and fallacies. Nonetheless, it included encouraging signs. This could encourage several members of the UN Security Council to demand rewards for Iraq for its cooperation in terms of lifting the economic sanctions as a prelude to a blanket revocation of the sanctions later. So, by fabricating and stepping up this crisis and portraying Iraq as if it were on the verge of attacking another country, the United States attempted to obstruct the adoption of such measures at the UN Security Council, and to make the other UN Security Council members extend the Iraq sanctions and prevent the endorsement of any easing of the Iraq sanctions. This was the prime objective of the current crisis created by the United States. Nonetheless, there are other reasons that have caused the U.S. Administration to step up the crisis. The most important factor in this regard is that the United States has consistently thought, over the past four years, that Iraq would collapse due to economic pressures and the multifaceted U.S. warfare that came about in the aftermath of the 30-state aggression against Iraq. That is why it constantly articulated several alternative political formulas and plans. However, its efforts were always met with failure. Four years after the enforcement of the sanctions, it has become clear that Iraq has almost reached safe shores, and that it will reap the fruits of its jihad, patience, and sacrifices. This has caused the United States to suffer a turbulent shock that has recently been reflected in emotionalism, anger, haste, and nervousness, which have marked the conduct and statements of of U.S. officials beginning with Bill Clinton and ending with Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. This intransigent, hostile, and rancorous U.S. conduct reflects the strong feelings of disappointment the United States has felt toward Iraq. This is because the Iraqis' steadfastness has exacerbated the U.S. Administration's anger and rancor. Hence, it has been waiting for an opportunity to create and escalate a crisis in order to inflict immediate harm on the Iraqi people. A third relevant factor has been addressed by several quarters, including the French minister of state for defense. This French minister addressed this factor the day before yesterday when he accused the Clinton Administration of stepping up the

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crisis with Iraq in order to promote domestic U.S. purposes related to elections. Of course, there are other factors that have recently been addressed by U.S. newspapers. However, time does not allow us to address these factors.

Nonetheless, the lesson one can learn from this escalation is that the United States has exploited ordinary Iraqi conduct, such as the movement of Iraqi troops in southern Iraq for maneuvers. Similar activities are conducted by Iraqi troops in northern and central Iraq. This has been done regularly over the past few years. It did not attract the attention of the United States or others at the time. Nonetheless, this time, the United States sought to exploit these ordinary activities to extend the sanctions against Iraq and thwart the efforts to lift it.

[Correspondent] It has been announced that U.S.-Kuwaiti exercises are to be conducted on the border with Iraq. Why is it that Western circles do not condemn this provocation?

[Al-Mukhtar] You have a point. The United States did not confine itself to conducting joint maneuvers with Kuwaiti forces; it has continually been holding exercises [words indistinct] 42 military exercises since 1991, which Iraq has not regarded as provocative acts, nor has the world looked at them as such. Why is the world viewing this action [Iraqi troop movements] as an Iraqi act of provocation and then it found out last night that it was a grand American trick fabricated by U.S. media to help the U.S. Administration. This is because international opinion is controlled by the media, and I am not saying it is controlled politically, since political domination of the world is impossible by a single country. One country may wield greater influence, but there is no country in the world with total control over the world. The U.S. enjoys an edge over other nations insofar as the influence of the media is concerned. It spread rumors and information that Iraq was making preparations for another invasion of Kuwait, playing on fears, and thus sparking a global reaction critical of Iraq or expressing concern about Iraq's moves. However, Iraq's wise and rational policies and its assertion that it is not contemplating any military action and that the relocation of troops was routine and falls within Iraq's sovereign rights. Iraq then went on to withdraw the forces a little to the north in order to pull the rug from under the United States. Iraq then summoned the Russian and Chinese military attaches to see the withdrawal for themselves. This is in addition to a sizable team of Arab and foreign correspondents. These measures have unmasked and defeated the American game, so much so that France changed its position within the space of less than 24 hours and shifted from a position of a critic of Iraq and absolute supporter of the American measures to one of obvious detractor and opponent of the escalating U.S. behavior. A very high-level meeting took place in France under President Mitterrand. All French officials decided that Iraq was moving within the realm of its sovereignty and that it did not violate UN resolutions and therefore the United States must tone down its rhetoric and must not use its congressional elections to win votes. The same applies to Russia, where the government hastened to douse the flames, in contrast to the U.S. Administration. President Yeltsin yesterday sent a personal envoy who was received by the leader President Saddam Husayn. The visit is an important and crucial indicator of the size of the political shift within Russia toward Iraq. It was the first visit by a Russian foreign minister since the 30-state aggression against Iraq. The Russian foreign minister is carrying clear-cut ideas to defuse the crisis.

[Correspondent] According to some observers, by fabricating a crisis with Iraq, Washington seeks to achieve a new consensus with the permanent members of the UN Security Council after the past few months have seen a split and a departure from the American position. The United States is said to have been out to attain a new consensus against Iraq by raising the fears of fabricated Iraqi threats to Kuwait? However, if anything, the existing split has deepened. The French position is now clearer and the Russians have grown more active [words indistinct].

[Al-Mukhtar] That is true, and I would like to add that the Turkish position has grown clearer and bolder than in the past. When the crisis erupted, Turkey urged all the parties to exercise restraint and not violate UN resolutions. On the following day, Turkey stated that it meant all the parties and not Iraq alone. It then said it is possible that it would not allow the use of Turkey's military bases to hit Iraq. Later it said it would not allow Turkish bases to be used against Iraq. This shift on Turkey's part is similar to positive changes in France and Russia. How do we explain this shift? As I have said, when they realized the seriousness of the Iraqi stand and Iraq's determination not to escalate matters or violate UN resolutions, they took the right position. Iraq thus aborted the U.S. plan to isolate it anew and to restore unity to the allied forces that launched aggression and imposed the unjust resolutions on Iraq. Iraq's wise policies fashioned by President Saddam Husayn are that we are committed to cooperation with the United Nations and that we have no intention of escalating matters and that the forces will be pulled back as an illustration of our good faith despite the fact that the forces were there before the crisis erupted. This defused tension and led to France, Russia, and Turkey and other regional parties, including the Arab League—which issued a statement in the name of the secretary general broadly supportive of the U.S. line and later approved of the Iraqi position—to commend Iraq's stance as positive. Thus it is obvious that this turnaround made Madeleine Albright yesterday withdraw a U.S. plan that would have been imposed by a new Security Council resolution and would have called for the introduction of a land exclusion zone in south Iraq, forbidding mechanized vehicles and heavy Iraqi weapons. That would have hurt Iraq's sovereignty. However, these shifts led the U.S. Administration to withdraw its plan, because it had won the support of no one. France criticized it

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severely and Britain did not take a clear position and seemed hesitant. It was natural that U.S. circles acknowledged that it was premature to propose a ground exclusion zone in southern Iraq. All these shifts demonstrate that victory is at hand and that Iraq's objective of getting the economic sanctions removed is now at hand since the split within the Security Council has grown deeper. I believe that the process of lifting the sanctions is already under way and that there are new guarantees that the sanctions will be lifted through the pressure that will be applied by international circles that have found out about the American game thanks to Iraq's legendary and heroic steadfastness and the genius of the leader Saddam Husayn.

Newspaper Editorials View Continuing Crisis

Possible Developments Seen

JN1410090094 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 94 p 3

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information: "How Do We Deal With the Crisis?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ever since the silence of the roar of guns and the achievement of a cease-fire in the chapter of the U.S.-NATO military aggression on Iraq and the continuation of the economic embargo despite Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the UN Security Council's adoption of Resolution 687, which set the conditions for lifting the embargo, it is clear that we are facing an open crisis which seems to have no exit, especially following the interventions of several parties which are represented in the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM] and the inspection teams and the modes of relationship and conduct which have attended the work of these committees.

Although Iraq has made it a point to avoid confrontation, implement the provisions of Resolutions 687 precisely, and show its full readiness to implement Resolution 715 on future monitoring of its advanced armament industry, the declared stands of the United States and Britain have indicated that what is required of Iraq goes beyond the limits of the Security Council resolutions and that the United States is playing the game of "freezing Iraq," completely exhausting it, and preventing it from full recovery after all that has been destroyed during the two chapters of military aggression and treachery and treason and the third chapter represented by the measures which have been taken by UNSCOM and the inspection committees against Iraqi missiles, chemical weapons, and scientific capabilities. From the U.S. viewpoint, this game is essential in order to implement the settlement plan and the separate agreements which the Zionist entity has concluded with several Arab countries.

Although Iraq has reached this conclusion a great deal earlier, the Iraqi leadership, irrespective of its accurate predictions and out of a desire to avoid an escalation of the crisis, has responded sincerely to the Security Council resolutions, the sensitive material requests of UNSCOM, the periodic statements of the Security Council presidency, and the reports of the UNSCOM chairman which all indicated that the removal of the blockade is linked to the operation of the monitoring system and a testing period of six months.

When the United States and Britain extended their conditions and demands of Iraq and began talking about the need to implement all Security Council resolutions, particularly the political part of the resolutions which has nothing to do with Resolution 687, Iraq, also out of a desire to avoid a confrontation and to eliminate any excuses for the continuation of the blockade, responded positively and showed its readiness to discuss this issue within a comprehensive political deal leading to implementation of all resolutions, including Paragraph (22) of Resolution 687 concerning the removal of the blockade.

It was hoped that this issue would be clearly determined during the Security Council's review of the blockade in September 1994, however, the issue was deferred pending a report by the UNSCOM chairman on 10 October which is supposed to establish Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations under Resolution 687 and the operation of the monitoring system. This would mean that the Security Council would decide to implement Paragraph [22] of the aforementioned resolution immediately or after fixing a testing period of six months.

The above is known to every Iraqi. The Iraqi leadership has made it a point to publish all the facts and data so that they will be clear and unambiguous. Today, we are before stands which require rational and firm handling at the same time so that we can cross with the people to the safe haven.

What are the possibilities and how do we deal with them?

The first possibility: The UN Security Council would implement its resolutions, fulfill its promises, respond positively to Iraq's implementation of its obligations under Resolutions 687 and 715, and fix a date for the removal of the economic embargo. Iraq would then respond positively to the Security Council Resolutions and we would be in a situation which would mark the beginning of the end of the crisis, which emerged following the cease-fire. It would then be possible to close the page of the blockade with all the resulting political and security effects on the entire region.

The second possibility: The U.S. Administration and Britain would resort to pressure beginning with the Security Council by preventing it from adopting any resolution which is harmonious with its responsibilities under the resolutions which it has issued and no one else. We would then be faced with a serious development of the crisis which would mean that the U.S. Administration would continue with the economic embargo. This embargo, as British Prime Minister John Major said, will

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continue regardless of Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions. Frankly, the continuation of the blockade would mean starving the Iraqi people further and killing all prospects for the resumption of the process of growth and prosperity which began with the victory of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution, transforming Iraqis into a people decimated by famine and disease despite all the wealth and resources they have to make them live a good dignified life.

Confronting the plans of the U.S. Administration is not a new thing for the Iraqis and the peoples of the world. It is not impossible for any people to resort to regaining their freedom and break the chains which fetter them. The history of nations, all nations, is a record of struggle against tyranny, exploitation, and enslavement. Moreover, confronting states which are plotting against Iraq face to face is much better than dealing with them "by mediation." When the Kuwaiti rulers conspire, spend their funds lavishly in order to buy consciences in international forums, act hysterically during every periodic review of the blockade by the Security Council by dispatching their delegations to the capitals of the permanent states of the Security Council to promise them commercial deals; when these people behave in such a harmful way although Iraq has clearly announced through the leader of the people that it is ready to open a new page in its relations with the states which harmed Iraq; and when the Kuwaiti rulers conspire in such an obvious manner, we will not find it difficult, as a people, to prevent them from continuing to harm us, and to return them to their senses by our strong argument and the people's capabilities and full readiness to make every sacrifice for the sake of remaining a living, self-less people who bow to no one and refuse to live besieged, fettered, and threatened with slow death.

At the same time, we are capable of turning the table on everyone, headed by the representatives of the U.S. Administration as they sit down to redraw the political map of the region according to the strategic interests of the United States and the interest of the Zionist entity at the expense of the Palestinian people and the rights of the Arab nation. If Iraq moves strongly it will find on its side all the Arab masses and their vanguard forces, which stand today perplexed and in a state of anticipation and amazement at what has happened and is happening. The U.S. Administration would then pay a heavy price from its prestige and its political and strategic presence in the region. Great popular masses shall surge forth beyond the calculation of those who sit in closed chambers in Washington to distribute roles in the region. They will find some suspect thrones and regimes looking for someone to deliver them from the fury of the people. The U.S. Administration will not be able also to protect its soldiers and fleets on land and in the sea from punishment. It would then be compelled to flee as had happened in Beirut and Somalia.

Iraq, which has proved to the whole world its absolute readiness for peace, has provided categorical evidence of its principled and ethical commitment that the region should live in security and peace, and has publicly shown its readiness to open a new page in its relations with the regimes which have harmed it and violated its right, has every right today to defend its rights, prevent the continued starvation of its people, and move, as affirmed in the statement of the official spokesman following the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Party Regional Command on 6 October 1994, to a position which will restore the rights and remove the Iraqi people from the distress which has been imposed on them.

This is how we should deal with the crisis and its changes. This is the way to remove the blockade. There is no other way. March ahead.

U.S. 'Interpretation' of Events Refuted

JN1410060694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0417 GMT 14 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] On its front page, AL-THAWRAH publishes an editorial under the headline "In Light of the Crisis Escalation: An Objective Discussion of the U.S. Administration's Allegations." The editorial says, in part: Claiming that there were Iraqi concentrations south of al-Basrah and close to Kuwait, the United States fabricated a crisis, escalated it, and used it as a pretext to justify its decision to send large numbers of various Armed Forces formations to the region, accompanied by threats to launch a fresh military aggression or adopt measures on the ground to ensure, as it claims, the nonrecurrence of anything that might threaten Kuwait's security and safety. This matter requires extensive study from the military and political aspects to explain the gravity of the U.S. interpretation. Any military official or analyst with a reasonable or even limited amount of military vision and knowledge related to combat formations and troop movements and their transition from a training posture to an offensive posture is astonished by the tendentious U.S. allegation that the two Iraqi divisions which were monitored by the U.S. intelligence services had been prepared to invade Kuwait.

Russian, French 'Positive Stands' Lauded

JN1410095294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has said that now that the attempts of the United States and its agents to beat the drums of war and strip Iraq of its national will have been completely exposed, the will of reason, logic, and fairness has triumphed.

In its editorial today, headlined "Fair Positive Stands," the paper says that the growing number of fair stands, which has become remarkably evident over the past

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days, means that the responsible and balanced Iraqi position is winning more understanding and support, and that matters are being placed in their logical and sound context despite all attempts at misrepresentation.

AL-'IRAQ says that the active Russian diplomatic move and Russian officials' positive and fair statements, besides the clear French assertions rejecting U.S. allegations and "proposals" announced by Madeline Albright on "expanding the exclusion zone," reflect a responsible stand compatible with the required role that both nations should play at the Security Council in order not to let all matters be manipulated by the Americans or let them control such global international institutions as the Security Council and the United Nations.

The paper says that any Russian and French success in any serious effort to reveal facts, puts an end to U.S. hegemony, and any move to deal positively with Iraq's fair case to remove the injustice done to it will boost their status, grant their stands credibility and confidence, and boost their influential international presence.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that Iraq will never forget the stands of any state that has contributed to enforcing justice, supported the great Iraqi people, or played any positive role. Iraq will place all that in the balance of future relations.

UNSC Urged To Live Up to Responsibilities

JN1310225194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—The U.S. Administration's talk of extending the air exclusion zone south of 32 parallel and creating a ground exclusion zone, as well as a continuing buildup of U.S. and British forces on land, at sea, and in the air mark a serious and deliberate escalation, according to an Iraqi political writer.

In an article published by AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today, Mr. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said advocates of that option are playing with fire and pushing things too far and seriously imperiling regional security and stability.

The organization that must be most careful not to be dragged into playing this diabolical game is the Gulf Cooperation Council, which London and Washington, in collusion with Kuwait, want to lure into an ambush.

The Security Council, particularly Russia and the PRC, should act to abort this U.S.-British plan that seeks to advance imperialist oil interests in the Gulf.

The air exclusion zones south of 32 parallel and north of 36 parallel were introduced unilaterally by the United States, Britain, and France to dismember Iraq on abhorrent ethnic and sectarian lines.

He indicated that neither of the air exclusion zones was instituted by the UN Security Council or the General Assembly. They were set up in crude violation of Iraq's sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and political independence.

Hammudi called on Iran, from where, he notes, some positive statements on the need to lift the sanctions came, to dissociate itself from the reactionary American-British alliance. Iraq, he stressed, insists on its vital demand for removing the embargo and discarding the weapon of starving and killing Iraqis. Hammudi urged the Security Council to live up to its responsibilities toward security, stability, and peace and to defuse U.S. aggression in Iraq.

GCC's 'Pledge' To Relax Boycott of Israel Decried

JN1410123994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Adil Sa'd: "Another Treasonous Step"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What does the Gulf Cooperation Council's pledge to delete the names of companies which deal with the Zionist enemy from the blacklist mean?!

A political and economic analysis of the aims behind this serious measure leads us to the fact that it is another treasonous step to be added to the long treasonous record of the Saudi regime and other Gulf states. Since stands are known by their origin, the new Gulf pledge cannot but originate from the exposed treasonous policies represented by Hafr al-Batin, the aggression on Iraq, the flow of Saudi oil to the Zionists through the Elat-Ashqelon line, the big placards festooning al-Sabah rulers' motorcades: "Jerusalem is the Eternal Capital of Israel," and the horrific and systematic robbery of Gulf funds in support of Zionist corporations and companies to save them from certain bankruptcy.

Bitterness and sorrow are rending the hearts of many good Arabs as they watch the great political and economic paradox between this "truce" step, which is being offered to the Zionist entity, and the bribes and grants which the Saudi regime and the Kuwaiti rulers are lavishing on others to maintain the boycott and the blockade on Iraq in order to harm its brave people.

These hireling rulers have paid billions of dollars to make the Iraqi people starve. They have also used all kinds of mean devious methods, including buying voices in international forums and concluding arms deals with permanent member states of the UN Security Council, despite the lack of any need for them. They have gone further by emptying the oil coffers, transforming their countries from economic centers to countries begging for loans from the World Bank. They have done all that to vindicate their hatred against Iraq.

What these agent regimes have done by pledging to the U.S. Administration to lift the blockade on the Zionist entity at a time when they are intensifying their activity

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to continue the boycott and the blockade on Iraq provides cogent proof as to how low they and their regimes have stooped. If they think that this places them within a security zone which safeguards them, then they are very mistaken. Because what is right is right. They are only exacerbating their political dilemma and showing their insignificance before the will and steadfastness of the nation.

PRC Communist Party Delegation Arrives for Talks

Delegates To Meet Ba'th Party Officials

JN0910131694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Lichang Zhang, secretary general of the party's International Liaison Department, arrived in Baghdad at dawn today at the invitation of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During its visit, which is expected to last several days, the guest delegation will hold talks with Ba'th Party officials on ways to promote the bilateral ties of friendship between the two parties.

Vice President Receives Delegates

JN1210000994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that our struggle with the colonialist forces is due to our rejection of all forms of foreign domination and hegemony.

During his meeting with Zhang Lichang, secretary general of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, and the accompanying delegation currently visiting Iraq, Ramadan added that the U.S. Administration's main objective of continuing the economic embargo is to starve the Iraqis and kill their children, women, and elderly by denying them food and medicine.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated Iraq's serious desire to establish developed relations with China in all fields in order to serve the interests of both friendly countries and to reinforce relations between the Iraqis and the Chinese.

He said that the current stage and the complicated international circumstances require us to deepen party, official, and bilateral relations at a higher and above normal pace.

Mr. Zhang said that in international forums, China has always called for lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq after it had carried out its international commitments.

He said that meetings and the exchange of party visits will contribute to a serious and developed understanding more than in the field of official relations.

Hammadi Receives Chinese Official

JN1110230594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today met with Zhang Lichang, secretary general of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, and his delegation, currently on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, the culture and information minister underlined the importance of the strong relations between the two friendly peoples and countries. He reviewed the consequences resulting from the continuation of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq and noted the importance of the role which China can play in the international forums in the direction of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Zhang Lichang voiced the solidarity of the Chinese people and government with the Iraqi people and government over the suffering they are facing as a result of the continuation of the unjust embargo and the conspiracies. He stressed China's firm position on the issue of lifting the embargo.

Oil Ministry Official Receives Group

JN1110225994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Taha Hammud Musa, Oil Ministry under secretary, today received the Chinese Communist Party delegation led by Zhang Lichang, secretary general of the party's International Liaison Department.

The meeting dealt with ways of strengthening cooperation relations between the two countries and prospects of promoting these relations in the field of oil.

Chinese Official Views Gulf Crisis

JN1210155594 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 12 (INA)—Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party's Foreign Relations Department, Zhang Lichang has urged all parties concerned with the region affairs to implement UN resolution in a full and practical manner to help solve problems.

The Chinese official, who is currently visiting Iraq, said during a meeting with chairman of Iraq's peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organisation Salah al-Mukhtar, his country observes with concern situation in the region, adding that China considers peaceful solutions of conflicts as the base of international relations.

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He added that Iraq has cooperated fully with the United Nations' inspection mission and has already fulfilled all obligations provided for by UN Security Council resolutions in hope for lifting the embargo imposed on it, noting that China appreciates Iraq's positive stand and affirms its sympathy with the Iraqi people who faced and still facing tragic situation.

Mr. Zhang Lichang added that China always calls for and urges an objective assessment of Iraq's positive stand and its efforts and cooperation in implementing UN Security Council resolutions noting that his country, out of humanitarian consideration calls for ending Iraqi people's plight.

Mr. Zhang Lichang also said that China has moreover called for a gradual lift of the trade sanctions imposed on Iraq to be coincided with Iraq's implementation of UN resolutions and at the same time, China has strongly opposed to any foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

He went on to say that his country's [sympathy] with Iraq stems from its principled stand, adding that China observes with comfort the increasing calls to lift anti-Iraq embargo.

Later on Monday, Mr. Zhang Lichang and the accompanying delegation met with Speaker of the National Assembly (parliament) Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

During the meeting Mr. Salih briefed the visiting delegation on grave consequences of the four-year old economic embargo imposed on Iraq which claimed, and is still claiming lives of tens of children, woman and elderly as a result of shortages of food and medicines.

The speaker also praised Iraqi-Chinese developed relations, especially relations between Iraq's National Assembly and China's National People's Congress, appreciating efforts exerted by China in international conferences and meetings to lift embargo on Iraq and its insistence on recognising Iraq's positive attitude towards Resolutions 687 and 715.

Early on Sunday talks were held between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the Chinese Communist Party.

The talks were headed by Vice-chairman of Foreign Relatons Office of Iraq's Command of Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Latif Nusayyif Jasim and secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party's Foreign Relations Department.

Party Head Meets Chinese Official

JN1310001394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive Patriotic Front, has met with a delegation of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Zhang Lichang, secretary general of the International Liaison Department of the party.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur underscored the importance of the role that the PRC can play at international forums to help lift the unfair sanctions clamped on the Iraqi people, particularly since Iraq has honored its commitments, as is clear in documents submitted by UN officials.

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Rabin Issues Statement on Nobel Peace Prize

TA1410123294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Statement read by Beni Kohen, the prime minister's media adviser, in Jerusalem on 14 October, following the announcement that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister is not available to attend ceremonies at this hour, and he is fully occupied at this time in the effort to bring home safely the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldier Nahshon Wachsman. The prime minister wishes to make the following statement: Prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin wishes to thank the members of the Nobel Committee in Oslo for awarding him the Nobel Prize. The prime minister states the prize is for the whole nation, for the citizens of the State of Israel, for the bereaved families and the disabled, for the hundreds of thousands who have fought in Israel's wars.

The war is not yet finished, and the prize is a prize for the future more than it is a reward for the efforts for peace that have been made until now. Peace is not the enterprise of one man. Many people have contributed to the path toward peace, first and foremost the ministers of the government. I extend my congratulations to my fellow recipients Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. At this time, IDF soldier Nahshon Wachsman is in a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cell in Gaza. His plight is our plight because all Israel is responsible one for the other.

We have made peace with the Palestinians in order that peace and security be their inheritance and ours. If there will not be security, there will also not be peace. Today, the Palestinians face the moment of truth. If they do not defeat the enemies of peace, the enemies of peace will defeat them. Together with you, we pray for the safety of Nahshon Wachsman and the safety of all those who seek peace and freedom. The Nobel Peace prize is first and foremost their prize. Shabbat Shalom.

Developments in Wachsman Abduction Case Reported

Rabin Warns of 'Severe Consequences'

TA1310123994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher says the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Yasir 'Arafat bear responsibility for the release of Corporal Nahshon Wachsman, who is being held by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists. The secretary made the statement after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Tel Aviv this morning. Rabin repeated that it is up to 'Arafat to release the soldier, otherwise the continuation of the peace talks is in doubt. Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Not surprisingly, it was the Hamas attacks this week, in particularly the kidnapping of Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman, that dominated Rabin and Christopher's opening statements and the questions at their press conference. The prime minister was adamant that Wachsman is being held captive in Gaza and that Yasir 'Arafat and the PA are responsible, as he said, for what is done or not done there:

[Rabin] Therefore, for us they the address to make sure that the soldier will be kept alive and will return alive to Israel. I described the severe consequences, if this does not happen, to the continuation of the implementation of the DOP [Declaration of Principles] between the Palestinians and Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] But Rabin stressed that the peace process and talks with other Arab countries will not be effected.

[Rabin] We negotiate with every Arab partner in the context of the Madrid peace conference on the merits of the bilateral issues. Therefore, this issue is related only to the continuation of the negotiations and the implementation of the DOP between us and the Palestinians and will not effect our progress with Jordan and hopeful progress with Syria and Lebanon. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 13 October carries a recording of Rabin's remarks at the joint news conference with Secretary Christopher in which Rabin says: "I have been briefed by the secretary of state on his talks in Damascus." He adds: "Some things may now sound more auspicious, but the gaps are still big, and it will take a long time and a major effort by Secretary of State Christopher before these gaps are bridged."]

Rabin: 'Arafat Faces 'Strategic Choice'

TA1310165894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today that Yasir 'Arafat is facing a strategic choice: Peace or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has the details:

[Begin recording] [Raz] This seems to be the harshest remark the prime minister has made since this kidnapping affair started. It also corresponds with remarks Secretary Christopher made today, saying that he, like Rabin, holds Yasir 'Arafat personally and fully responsible for the well-being and safe return of Nahshon Wachsman. [passage omitted]

The prime minister went a step further today in his severe remarks regarding 'Arafat's responsibility. During their conversation, Rabin made it clear to Christopher that the PLO leader is now, in fact, facing a strategic decision in which he must choose between peace and Hamas.

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[Rabin] There is just one test: the safe return home of Corporal Nahshon Wachsman. Only against this will we judge the Palestinian Authority's ability to fulfill the commitments it undertook in the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement.

[Raz] In response to a question, several senior Prime Minister's Office sources said that they are not in contact with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who, according to several reports, is involved in certain mediation efforts. At the same time, Prime Minister Rabin is overseeing the efforts of the various security branches to safely free Nahshon Wachsman. [end recording]

Peres Praises Arab Figures' Call

TA1310131494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the fact that Arab and Muslim figures have expressed opposition to the abduction of Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman is significant but not enough. Peres spoke to reporters this morning before meeting with Secretary of State Christopher:

[Begin Peres recording] Well, we have to judge by the results of this; we cannot judge just by the intentions. We know that this requires a major effort, and I hope that all the necessary steps will be taken. All the indications are that the kidnapped soldier is there, and it is his responsibility to act accordingly. I must say I wouldn't like to ignore the fact that many Arabs, including some Muslims, expressed their opposition to this sort of activity and directed a call to the terrorists to keep the soldier alive. But I know that this is not enough, they have to expect more action. [end recording]

Opposition Voices 'Full Support'

TA1210122294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leaders of the coalition and the opposition have decided to give their full support to the government and the prime minister in their efforts to return Nahshon Wachsman home safely.

Prime Minister Rabin met with leaders of political parties in the Knesset, including Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, in his office this morning after the cabinet meeting. He repeated that Israel holds PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat responsible for the fate of the soldier.

Netanyahu said after the meeting that although he had criticized the government's policy, he was giving the prime minister his support for the measures on which he had been briefed in a private meeting.

Failed Bid To Capture Kidnapper Reported

TA1310124994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Oct 94 p 9

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] helicopter landed in the Gaza Strip a few days ago in an attempt to capture Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitive 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Husa, who is suspected of abducting soldier Nahshon Wachsman.

This was announced yesterday by Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the Israeli desk at the Palestinian Authority. According to him, the Israeli force entered the Strip without approval and left after its attempt to capture Abu-Husa failed.

Reacting to the report, Abu-Husa told Palestinian sources in the Strip that Israeli helicopters had indeed circled above the place where he was staying, but he fired at them and escaped.

Last night, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, reacted by saying that he is not familiar with the affair and that he would therefore prefer not to comment.

Palestinian sources in the Strip said it was not the first time since the establishment of autonomy that special IDF troops went into the Strip to try to capture wanted men. They maintained that an undercover unit several times mounted failed manhunts for cousins Rajah and 'Amr Abu-Sitah, who had murdered Gan-Or resident Uri Magidish. The two men confirmed the report; the IDF denied it.

Contributions to PA To Be Withheld

TA1410104594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Oct 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel will withhold contributions from the donor countries to the Palestinian Authority [PA] until kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachsman is released. Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that the suspension of contacts with the PLO pertained to all negotiation issues, including contacts to approve the agreement on the transfer of funds to the PA and the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as well as to the early empowerment process in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Hears No 'New' Information

TA1410082094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning's special cabinet session at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv ended a short while ago. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the cabinet did not hear any new information regarding the fate of soldier Nahshon Wachsman.

The ministers were given the impression that the Palestinian Authority was indeed making serious efforts to locate the kidnapped soldier. The cabinet reaffirmed

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that it was holding Yasir 'Arafat responsible for the life and well-being of Nahshon Wachsman.

'Senior Sources' Favor Negotiations

TA1410130594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that senior sources involved in the handling of Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping favor negotiations to secure the release of the kidnapped soldier.

Peres on Wachsman, State of Talks With Jordan, Syria

TA1310200194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchor Menashe Raz and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Raz] Mr. Peres, judging from reports you have received, is it clear that Nahshon Wachsman is alive and well?

[Peres] According to the information we have, he is alive, and we have nothing to suggest that he is not. I hope the 50,000 prayers said in Jerusalem tonight will help keep him alive.

[Raz] Many who used to be clear supporters of the peace process have been changing their minds recently. This is not what we expected, they say. Do you believe that the formula of not allowing those who wish to torpedo the peace process to gain the upper hand is still valid?

[Peres] One cannot only sit in judgment. Clearly, peace travels a very rough road, and salvation comes only from suffering, as we all know. Terrible difficulties still lie ahead of us. What is the alternative? Suppose we do nothing. Look, when the State of Israel was founded, there were 70 million Arabs in the region; now there are 300 million. There were no missiles or nonconventional weapons then; now they are here. The Muslim world grew by 1 billion. Believe me, my heart goes out to the Wachsman family, and I hurt like any other Israeli, but even at this time we must ask ourselves how to end and free ourselves of this state of affairs. I have three answers to this: Terror should be confronted with the fullest force necessary; the causes of fear should be addressed as such; and there should be other expectations of the future.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, would you suggest that we remember mid-November as the date of the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty?

[Peres] I would recommend anything except for dates. They are not under our control. At the same time, I believe that peace with Jordan is not too far off.

[Sukenik] Could you confirm the reports that some progress was made before Christopher returned to Damascus today? Perhaps some technical change concerning the shape of negotiations?

[Peres] Well, some progress has been made in terms of examining the options, but it cannot be described as a breakthrough or as having overcome the gaps. There is still a lot of work to be done to get us out of the high atmosphere and down to the ground.

[Sukenik] In other words, there are no solutions as yet to the problems of withdrawal or the security arrangements. Are direct negotiations any closer?

[Peres] You said no so many times; you can add another negative. I do not foresee direct negotiations at this stage. [passage omitted]

[Sukenik] The Israeli Government is making a special effort to find Wachsman. Many ask: Where have you been up till now? You allowed 'Arafat to ignore Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activities and not deal with terror. Why did we have to wait for this abduction in order to tell him: No more?

[Peres] This is 'Arafat's first test in the Gaza Strip. We said we want to be certain that he is doing the best possible—that is, that his and the Palestinian Authority's attempts to find Nahshon are not tainted by any other either alien or political consideration or new ideas on how to handle Hamas. We want to see a focused and sharp effort to attain the goal of returning Nahshon Wachsman home alive.

[Sukenik] But Hamas terror has been there all along, and you never pressured 'Arafat with even half of the current force.

[Peres] We never had such an incident before. This is the first time that an Israeli soldier has been kidnapped and taken to the Gaza Strip and that videotapes are being distributed with proof that he is alive there. Look, there is no foolproof success in combating terrorism. Unfortunately, there is some on our side as well. It will take a very long time before we uproot terror. I am not willing to say, even at this difficult moment, that we have an immediate, comprehensive solution that would stop terror if we only acted on it. It was not simple even when we were in the Gaza Strip, and it is not simple elsewhere either. We are in the midst of a very harsh confrontation. I still detect the depth of hatred toward Israel. I see the attempts, the people who are willing to even commit suicide in order to kill innocent men.

[Sukenik] If, God forbid, this affair ends badly, will the peace process with the Palestinians be at risk? Are you considering stopping it?

[Peres] There is only one thing on our minds today: to test the Palestinian Authority on the security issue. It is impossible to try three or four options on the very same day. According to all the indications we have,

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Wachsman is in the Gaza Strip, and we want to see how the Palestinian Authority deals with a problem that is central in the life and mind of the State of Israel. We will judge it according to its performance. Today, let us not shirk responsibilities and not make suggestions but only focus on what matters.

Peres Denies Promise Not To Strike at Iraq

TA1310142194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Evelyn Gordon and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset yesterday that Israel has not made any promises not to strike back if Iraq were to attack.

Responding to nine motions regarding Iraq's renewed threat against Kuwait, Peres vigorously denied that Israel has been speaking secretly with Iraq.

"I know the Iraqis are spreading rumors that we have contacts with (them)," he said. "There aren't, there never were, and there won't be.

"And if (Saddam Husayn) tries to attack Israel... we have undertaken no obligation to behave as we did the last time... with restraint," he added.

Peres said Iraq was one of the "three islands" of murderous oppression left in the Middle East, with the others being Iran and Libya.

Saddam "has killed more Arabs and more Iranians than any other man alive," he said. "There is no compromise with Iraq. (Saddam) is a disaster—for his people, for his neighbors, for the Arab world, for the Moslem world."

However, he said, the important thing was not Saddam's behavior, but the reactions of the rest of the Arab world.

"The decided majority of the Arab world is looking askance at this war criminal," he said. "He is also the enemy of the Arab world."

This, he said, was proof of how much the rest of the Arab world had changed.

Peres's "no compromise" policy received wide support from representatives of all parties, with the exception of Hashim Mahamid (HADASH) [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and Talib al-Sani' (Democratic Arab Party), who advocated removing the embargo against Iraq.

Peres also used his speech to the Knesset to assert that all of Israel's wars were due to the Palestinian problem.

"All five of the wars that broke out here, and all the coalitions against Israel, arose because of the Palestinian issue," he said. "We never had any real quarrel with Egypt... with Lebanon... with Syria... with Jordan. The quarrel that led all these (states) to pressure us, to attack us, to (try to) destroy us, had its origins in this issue." [passage omitted]

Peres: Casablanca Conference Step Toward Peace

TA1410112294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Oct 94 p A3

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pointing at poverty as the region's major source of instability, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday called the upcoming Casablanca regional economic conference a first step towards meeting the area's needs and creating a peaceful atmosphere.

Peres addressed fellow ministers, Knesset members, businessmen and journalists that will participate at the meeting in Morocco, at a seminar held yesterday in Tel Aviv to prepare for the conference, which opens on October 30.

He noted that with the region's population of 300 million doubling within 20 years, failure to deal with the area's economic problems now will only magnify political difficulties in the future.

A major aim of the conference is to turn the Middle East into a region worth investing in, he said.

"If only half of the $1.3 trillion that the countries in the region invested in Europe and in weapons would have been invested here, we would see a wholly different Middle East," said Peres.

Emphasizing the changed atmosphere in the area, Peres noted the condemnation of terrorism by Arab and Moslem countries in response to the kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsman. "It is still not what we would like to see, but it is still different than the way it was before," he said.

Israel will propose 150 possible regional development projects, about half of which relate to water, estimated to cost $25 billion over a period of 10 years. In addition, the business sector will present concrete business proposals.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper, who is coordinating the private sector effort, said that the Israeli business delegation will present 140 "very concrete, very practical business projects."

These plans consist of projects totaling over $100 million, said Proper. They include 120 industrial projects, 15 in trade and 5 in tourism.

Foreign Ministry Establishes 'Autonomy Department'

TA1410104794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Oct 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has established a new department to handle contacts with the Palestinian Authority within the autonomy areas. The ministry has published a tender for the position of director of the Autonomy Department, which will operate within the peace division. Among other things, the department will maintain contacts with the donor countries and coordinate activities with countries that have contacts with the Palestinian Authority.

The peace division has already set up a Department on Jordanian Affairs, which began operating several weeks ago, after the signing of the Washington declaration and the acceleration of negotiations and partial normalization between Jordan and Israel. The Foreign Ministry's Supreme Appointments Committee, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, yesterday appointed Ya'aqov Rosen as director of the Jordan Department. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Committment to Peace Process Noted

TA1210065094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad took measures to placate Libya's reaction toward Tunisia in the wake of its agreement to exchange economic representatives with Israel. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that, according to information received in Jerusalem from Washington, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi approached the Syrian president with a demand to take action against Tunisia because of its decision to establish relations with Israel. However, al-Asad merely sent an envoy to Tunis and did not adopt any severe measures.

Political circles in Jerusalem view al-Asad's reaction as yet another expression of his commitment to the political process with Israel.

Beilin on Prospect of Peace Accord With Syria

BR1310132894 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 14 Oct 94 p 107

[Unattributed interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin; place and date not given: "Al-Asad, If You Are Out There..."]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [PANORAMA] Is the dispute between Israel and Syria merely an issue of military strategy?

[Beilin] Syria still constitutes a great strategic threat to Israel. It has military might and sophisticated weapons. Our common interests lie in the fact that if we achieve peace, we can both enjoy its results: economic development, a growth in tourism, and improved communications. Peace with Damascus would put a real end to the military threat to our state.

[PANORAMA] The signs seem to suggest that Syria is really set on peace.

[Beilin] There are changes in Syria: There is interest in an agreement. However, there is also a lot of mistrust.

[PANORAMA] Your ambassador in Washington is now meeting his Syrian counterpart face to face...

[Beilin] Decisions in Syria are made in a highly hierarchical manner. The crucial step depends on the president. I am sorry to say that we have been unable to have direct talks with al-Asad to date and have always needed to go through the Americans. I am sure that there will be important developments when this happens. We found this to be the case with the Palestinians and the Jordanians.

[PANORAMA] Is the agreement that you are proposing to the Syrians along the same lines as the one that you signed with Egypt?

[Beilin] We are working along similar lines: the territorial dispute, security measures, and demilitarization. It is obvious, however, that factors specific to Syria may emerge during the negotiations.

[PANORAMA] What weight will the 13,000 Israelis resident in the Golan have?

[Beilin] A human and psychological weight, certainly, but not a strategic and political weight. I am sure that the decisions that are made will not depend on the presence of Israeli citizens in the territory concerned.

[PANORAMA] Will there be a referendum prior to withdrawal?

[Beilin] Only when we have reached an agreement.

Political Sources on 'New Ideas' on Syrian Track

TA1310125394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, arriving in Jerusalem last night, brought back from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "new ideas on all the different components" of Israel-Syrian peace, including Golan demilitarization, Israeli sources say.

Asked about the main theme of their four-hour discussion in Damascus, one Israeli source said "the focus was on demilitarization."

"There is new creative Syrian thinking that is designed to advance the negotiations," chief negotiator with Syria Itamar Rabinovich said last night. "We can say the peace talks are alive and breathing."

Christopher is to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning to discuss advancing the Syrian peace track, before heading back to Damascus later in the day, U.S. officials say.

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Israeli sources say that, before leaving Jerusalem earlier in the week, Christopher urged the premier to provide a "contingent, affirmative response" to an issue on the negotiating table, provided he received the same favorable reply in Damascus. No other details are known. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 October publishes on pages A1 and A10 a report by political correspondent Aluf Ben, who adds that "Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said that al-Asad and Christopher also discussed the interview Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' gave to Israeli television. 'There is satisfaction in Syria over the fact that the interview was held and that it sparked a debate in Israel,' Rabinovich said. 'I am not sure whether the Syrians are aware of the criticism expressed about statements made in the interview, but the episode can be summed up favorably.' Rabinovich asserted that no proposals for additional public steps were submitted."

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 13 October in a page 23 report by Hemi Shalev and Shefi Gabay notes that "political sources in Jerusalem said that Secretary of State Warren Christopher has not achieved any significant progress in his talks in Damascus. Nevertheless, it was learned that the United States, Syria, and Israel are discussing a proposal to establish three committees on direct negotiations involving the withdrawal, normalization, and security arrangements. The sources asserted that the establishment of these committees could be expected the moment agreement is reached in principle regarding the security regime on the Golan Heights following the Israeli withdrawal."]

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Policy on Syrian Track

TA1210130194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 12 Oct 94 p 5

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "What Christopher Should Do"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peace between Syria and Israel will not come about through dubious maneuvers such as a television interview aimed at "addressing the Israeli nation." Several U.S. policymakers have labored approximately three months to convince the Syrian foreign minister to grant an interview to Israel television. And what was the outcome? Complete failure. If there was anything that could undermine the Israeli public's faith in Syria's intentions, it was this interview so eagerly awaited by its producers in Washington.

The Clinton administration, eager to score a political victory, would have done better to give up dubious maneuvers and to tell al-Asad instead: Do not rely on us. We are unable to give you the Golan Heights back. If your peace strategy is sincere, talk directly with Israel. This is what both 'Arafat and King Husayn have done. You do not need Ehud Ya'ari [Israel television correspondent] or even Itamar Rabinovich in order to talk with Yitzhaq Rabin.

Some people are saying that people in Jerusalem are also starting to recognize the tactical mistakes made by Israel: In order to convince the Israeli public that peace with Syria is vital, they have repeatedly said that without peace with Syria it will be impossible to achieve peace with the Palestinians and Jordan. This tactic only made al-Asad more intractable, for he could ruminate: If this is what Rabin and Peres think, then why should I soften my positions?

Later on it was argued that peace with Syria is vital because without it a pact could be made between Damascus and Tehran or Baghdad, in which case Israel would be in a difficult position. Al- Asad, who was only too glad to hear this sort of reasoning coming from Jerusalem, only became more obdurate. And to think that people in Jerusalem are still wondering why al-Asad is refusing to meet Rabin or Peres directly! The truth is that we should not be all that anxious about al- Asad's maneuvering room. Rabin can attain a peace agreement with Jordan "within two weeks," as a senior defense establishment source put it. All Rabin has to do is agree to a compromise over several dunams in the 'Arava. It is not al-Asad who is preventing the signing of a peace agreement with Jordan. Syria's influence is limited to the situation in Lebanon. Beyond this, al-Asad himself knows his cards are not very good: He no longer enjoys Soviet backing, he does not have Arab partners, nor can he revive the "Eastern front" as a threat against Israel.

This being the case, Israel has no need to rush. Al-Asad is much more pressed for time.

Some people say that, in order to win the next elections, Rabin's government needs an agreement with Syria. This argument is also erroneous. It is the quality of the agreement that will decide the outcome of the elections. If Rabin caves in to a Syrian dictate, this is not very likely to help him in the elections. If, on the other hand, he succeeds in attaining a good arrangement with Syria, his success in the elections will be assured. Such a good arrangement could be, for example, a very limited withdrawal that would not call for the uprooting of settlements and would leave most of the Golan in Israel's hands for the duration of the interim period, while peace simultaneously unfolds in the form of exchanged embassies and trade, cultural, and tourism relations.

Perhaps Christopher's intervention is called for to facilitate the negotiations with Syria. This intervention, however, should be directed at one aim only: to unequivocally inform al-Asad that he must not harbor any illusions that Christopher or Clinton are going to do his work for him and that he must speak with Jerusalem rather than Washington, because it is not the latter that is holding the Golan Heights. Only such an "interview" granted by al-Asad to Rabin rather than Ya'ari will reveal the truth behind his peace strategy.

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UK Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives on Visit

JN1310212694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2020 GMT 13 Oct 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Amman tonight on a short working visit to Jordan. Hurd will hold talks with his majesty the king on bilateral relation and current developments in the region, particularly the peace process. He was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan and the British ambassador in Amman.

Hurd arrived from Bahrain and had earlier visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He is expected to leave for Turkey tomorrow.

Received by King

JN1410071794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the Raghadan Palace this evening. A round of talks was held later, with His Majesty King Husayn leading the Jordanian side and Douglas Hurd the British side. They discussed ties between the two friendly countries and explored avenues to further improve and broaden them. They also considered regional and world issues. The talks also addressed the peace process, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli track, and the situation on the Iraq-Kuwait border. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, His Majesty's Adviser Yanal Hikmat, and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. For Britain, the talks were attended by Assistant Foreign Secretary Andrew Green; Mr. R.J. Sawers, Mr Hurd's special assistant; the British ambassador in Amman, and the press adviser at the British Foreign Office.

Leaves Amman After Talks

JN1410121894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Amman this morning following a short working visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

The talks dealt with relations between the two friendly countries and ways to enhance them in various fields as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest, the regional peace process and its developments, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli track, and the developments on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders.

Hurd was seen off at the airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; a number of senior officials; and the British ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Says Gulf Relations 'Boosted'

JN1210191594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that Jordan's relations with the Gulf states had been boosted during meetings between Jordanian officials and their Gulf counterparts. The premier described those talks as friendly warm and positive.

In an interview with the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, Dr. al-Majali has pointed out the importance of getting over Arab differences and be in one line to face dangers. He expressed his hope that all pending issues in the Arab world can be settled within the new regional order.

Dr. al-Majali indicated that the prevailing of peace and the elimination of the destructive weapons will not be a difficult task. Concerning the Jordanian-Egyptian relations, the premier said that the joint higher committee's latest meeting was successful.

In response to a question about Arab reconciliation, Dr. al-Majali said that the Egyptian president is exerting efforts to achieve this object. He added that the Arab ministerial meeting in New York had achieved very encouraging results.

Not Planning Cabinet Change

JN1010134194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 94 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Prime Minister 'Abd al- Salam al-Majali was quoted on Sunday as saying he was not inclined to carry out any reshuffle on his government and would resort to a very limited reshuffle only when he was impelled to do that and if it was absolutely necessary.

Hamadah Fara'inah, a columnist for AL-DUSTUR daily, quoted Dr. al-Majali as saying that a reshuffle was not imminent since change in governments should come only in response to political developments that warrant it. Such a change, when it happens, will embrace all Cabinet members including the prime minister himself, Dr. al-Majali was quoted as saying.

"I do not see any political changes coming up that require a change of government. If a reshuffle is needed to ensure the King's confidence in the government, I can only say that confidence in the government is already granted. But if a reshuffle is desired to help stop further attacks on the government or any of the Cabinet members, I say the attacks would remain and would continue against any government."

Mr. Fara'inah further quoted the prime minister as saying that Cabinet reshuffles are not necessarily good for the work of governments since they could confuse the public and impede government programmes.

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"I hope I would not be forced to carry out any Cabinet reshuffle," the prime minister said. Mr. Fara'inah also quoted the prime minister as saying it is true that all ministries have their own programmes and that a change of a minister does not affect these programmes. "Yet, a minister has a margin in which he can maneuver by either speeding up the implementation of plans or by drawing up future plans for the ministry," he said.

The writer also quoted the prime minister as saying that the two previous Cabinet reshuffles were needed to make the team of ministers more in harmony with one another and because the political situation then necessitated the existence of a stronger social and political base to deal with the impact of the Washington meeting and the outcome of the negotiations.

Confers With U.S. Defense Official

JN0910074294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and defense minister, received at his office today Frederick Smith, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they reviewed aspects of the existing cooperation between Jordan and the United States in the military field. Such reviews are made during the periodic meetings held by the Jordanian-U.S. Joint Military Committee to raise the efficiency of the Jordanian Armed Forces and to supply them with the latest military technology in terms of equipment and training. The meeting was attended by Yusuf al-Dalabih, minister of state at the Prime Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Muslim Brotherhood Criticizes Iraqi Leadership

NC1310215294 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 13 (AFP)—Jordan's strongest political grouping, the Moslem Brotherhood, on Thursday denounced the Iraqi build-up of troops near Kuwait, in an apparent shift from their stance in the last Gulf crisis.

A statement said "the Iraqi military build-up aims to find a pretext for foreign intervention, blackmail and further exploitation of the region's resources."

The group said it supported "the Iraqi people against the continued sanctions" but rejected "the measures taken by the Iraqi leadership towards creating a state of insecurity and instability in the region," in the statement obtained by AFP.

On Tuesday King Husayn launched his fiercest criticism to date of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn saying he had told the Iraqi leader not to repeat his mistake of 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

His remarks were in contrast to the position previously adopted by Jordan when the kingdom incurred the anger of other Arab countries and the Western allies by appearing to support Iraq's invasion.

In the last Gulf crisis supporters of the Moslem Brotherhood drummed up support for street demonstrations here backing Iraq, in the face of "foreign aggression."

Iraqi Leadership's 'Mistakes' Viewed

JN1310224694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Oct 94 pp 32, 24

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "Miscalculations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the calculations of the Iraqi leadership had been accurate, and if it had not made mistakes when it pushed its forces into Kuwait four years ago, it would have spared itself the effort of looking for mediators to convince the United States that the Iraqi Army units, which had earlier moved to the south, have returned to their positions and that they have withdrawn from al-Basrah and from the area close to the borders with Kuwait.

In order for us to know whether the Iraqi leadership's calculations are accurate, we have to review the following facts:

—The Iraqi leadership said, at the outset, that it has the freedom to move its forces wherever it wishes within its borders. But, it said afterward that it has withdrawn these troops from the new areas in which they were deployed. It also said it was ready to receive observers from China and Russia to verify the withdrawal.

—There was a hope of a limited relaxation of the blockade imposed on Iraq. Big powers like China, France, and Russia were pressing quietly and through diplomatic channels in that direction. But, the recent crisis surfaced and diverted these efforts from the goal of relaxing the blockade to preventing a new blow to Iraqi capabilities.

—Before this crisis, there were signs of increasing separation between the Gulf states and U.S. President Bill Clinton's Administration. The miscalculated Iraqi leadership's move, however, returned things to zero, and prompted these states to stop their opposition to some U.S. measures, especially in the field of arms deals. The move also prompted the United States to overlook the issue of human rights it fabricated for purely commercial and economic reasons, having nothing to do with human rights.

—The U.S. dollar, before the Iraqi leadership's move, was equivalent to 750 Iraqi dinars. Now, it is over 1,000 Iraqi dinars. It is well known that any increase in the exchange rate of the dollar in Iraq will add to the burdens of the poor Iraqi citizen, whose tragedy has become quite unbearable.

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—Before the last move of the Iraqi troops, whose consequences were miscalculated, attention was focused on a possible cancellation of the no-fly zones in the south and north. Now, however, tanks might be barred from entering these zones. Inevitably, should the United States succeed in this effort, Iraq will be effectively divided into three areas of influence, that is, three states.

We must make efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, who are currently undergoing the hardest era in the history of Iraq. When we say that the Iraqi leadership has bungled its calculations, we do not say so out of hostility, but rather by constructive criticism. We are also motivated by our belief that hollow fanfare and saying that Saddam Husayn should turn the table on the heads of all parties, should not be done or said at this critical stage when the Iraqi people are at the brink of death. Your friend is the one who tells you the truth and not the one who believes what you say.

The balance of powers is very far from equal. The Iraqi leadership should have interpreted the situation accurately. It should not have taken a single step, even if it thought it was legitimate and sound, as long as it could later be obliged to reverse it and give even more concessions than before.

The Arab situation is at its lowest point. This behooves writers and intellectuals not to keep dealing with major issues with the mentality of the "sacred cow" and the inspired regime that never errs. The Iraqi leadership, at this point of time, is in dire need of someone to tell it the truth rather than the need for fanfare and blind support. Many supported it in its war with Iran and got a reward in return. Now, they are on the other side of the front.

We hope that the United States is the party that has miscalculations. But if the United States had miscalculated things, it would not have seized the recent Iraqi move so quickly to impose a new discipline on the big powers, which have tried to even partially disobey the U.S. will; it would not have sent what remained of its of weapons, spare parts, and "junk" to the Gulf; it would not have rallied fresh support in the region that is far stronger than that which emerged in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; and it would not have created a new exclusion zone for mechanized units similar to the no-fly zone. So what now?

King Addresses Israeli Arab Delegation

JN1210233894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1604 GMT 12 Oct 94

["Full recording" of speech by King Husayn of Jordan to a delegation of Israeli Arabs led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, head of the Arab Democratic Party, at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 12 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear beloved brothers: On behalf of all your kinsfolk and brethren here on this steadfast Arab land, and in my own name, I once again welcome you to your second homeland and among your kinsfolk and brethren. I focus on our pride in, and our appreciation and respect for your steadfastness and adherence to your land, rights, identity, Arabism, and genuine character. If appreciation goes to one who stood fast on his land in our difficult and hard journey, appreciation should first of all be expressed to you. Everyone acknowledges your genuineness, courage, endurance, and patience.

All doors are open for you. You are here among your kinsfolk and brothers. I would like to welcome the Arab Democratic Party with its leadership and members as well as the independent brother members of this esteemed delegation. Please convey to all the kinsfolk and brothers our appreciation and pride.

The march is serious and objective. We have always cherished, and we will continue to cherish, Palestine. Our history is one, our march is one, as is our suffering. Our martyrs are banners on the lengthy path. At the same time, we do not have any ambitions or aspirations apart from doing our duty in terms of supporting the kinsfolk and brothers, so they can regain their rights on their national soil. We have always done so.

In the period when we used to assume direct responsibility, our position was clear and unequivocal; we did not agree to sell out any inch of Palestinian territory or an iota of the Palestinian rights. The responsibility is now assumed by the owners of the [Palestine] question, as was desired by them and by everyone in our Arab homeland. They have courageously assumed their responsibilities, and we welcomed this. We supported, and will continue to support, their march to the best of our capabilities and resources. We appeal to all to be cohesive under these, and other, circumstances. We wish them success in establishing an independent state on their national soil. [applause]

We are absolutely confident that such a state will be a democratic one in which both democracy and shura [consultations] are achieved, and in which man will be respected. Man has long been deprived of his rights. God willing, he will regain his rights. We hope the atmosphere will be one of political pluralism and respect for others' views and inclinations, God willing. Above all, we hope human rights will be safeguarded. This is our course here on this land and in this country, the homeland of the [Palestinian] immigrants and [Jordanian] supporters, and the home of free men. We must then meet and cooperate, based on mutual respect, interest, history, and what is dictated by the reality in terms of us being one family. We have always been, and we will continue to be, this way. The peace process is a serious and objective march. We all proceeded toward peace from the same point.

Hopefully, before long, we will get to the point at which we here in Jordan and they on the other side can produce something to show for our hard and sustained work that has won broad worldwide support. Let's hope we solve

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all issues and then crown this stage of work and effort with the desired peace soon, a just and lasting peace that will prove acceptable to future generations that may safeguard it, the kind of peace under which all sides feel they have won their rights. We are seeking peace among the children of Abraham. The kind of peace into which we think we are headed is comprehensive—one that affords us the opportunities that we have been denied for so long. We are trying to realize the kind of peace under which the Arab individual attains what is rightfully his and then proceeds to face challenges on a sure footing of peace of mind and confidence that he will attain all his objectives.

You referred to the power of peace. We welcome you as seekers of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in this second homeland of yours among your kinsfolk and brothers. As for the issues that you raised, these must all be addressed. In this regard, I hope there will be continuous meetings and dialogue so that we may define what measures must be taken. However, please communicate to our kinsfolk and brothers that this is their country and its gates are open. You are most welcome; this is your country and these are your kinsfolk. [applause]

As for the educational institutions and universities, naturally, we will consider this matter. Honestly speaking, I am convinced there should be new arrangements for the future as of next year so everyone can enjoy the same opportunities with regard to receiving university education in this country. We want all our kinsfolk and brothers to contribute with us to what we are doing now for them and for future generations.

As for pilgrimage and visiting the holy places, I think we have made long strides there, and as for the numbers involved we share the same problem. However, this matter must be discussed further so that we may face the requirements as one family in the future.

Regarding your position within the Arab nation, I assure you that I am on your side to the best of my ability. [applause] As far as I am concerned, you have a special place and distinguished position. You are the ones who have been patient and have stood firm on their land and adhered to their rights and their Arab identity. We hold you in high regard. Once again, you are most welcome in your country among kinsfolk and brothers. God willing, there will be a repeat of such meetings, so that we rejoice in our major achievements that transcend us as individuals in that they serve human beings and future generations and their objectives.

God's peace and blessings upon you.

Al-Majali, Ministers Receive Group

JN1310200294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has met a delegation of 1948 Palestinian Arabs led by Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party. The prime minister reviewed to the visiting delegation the political development in the area and the latest in the peace process, especially the Jordanian-Israeli peace track.

Dr. al-Majali asserted Jordan's keenness to strengthen the brotherly Jordanian-Palestinian relations, whether with the Palestinian autonomous authority or with Palestinians, wherever they are, as stated by his majesty the king that Jordan is their second home. The prime minister added that the government will study and execute the requests which the delegation presented during their audience with his majesty the king.

Earlier, the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Dr. Jawad al-'Anani received the delegation. Discussion centered during the meeting on the peace process in the area, especially the peace process and the Jordanian-Israeli track in particular.

The delegation was also received by the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ratib al-Sa'ud. Dr. al-Sa'ud expressed readiness to provide any assistance possible, calling for effective mechanism of cooperation. The delegation asked the minister to open the Jordanian universities and institutions for the Arabs of 1948 by allotting several seats for them in Jordan.

Prince Hasan Stresses Support for Palestinians

JN0810231794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Oct 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan reaffirmed Jordan's support of the Palestinian people and their right on their national soil.

In an interview with CNN broadcast today, Prince Hasan said Jordan believes in the necessity of the Palestinian National Authority's success. His royal highness stressed the need for greater democracy and respect of human rights in the Middle East.

Prince Hasan also highlighted the role of economic development in his vision of a new Middle East.

Islamic Front Criticizes Lifting of Boycott

JN0910134094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Oct 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF), Jordan's mainstream Islamist group, on Saturday criticised the recent decision by the Arab Gulf states to lift the boycott of companies dealing with Israel and called on Arab leaders to reconsider their decision.

The IAF, in a statement addressed to Arab heads of state, described the decision of the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a "stab for the Palestinian cause and for Arab and Muslim rights."

The front, a vehement opponent of the almost three-year-old peace process, also criticised the decision by the

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Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and "some Arab governments" to conduct peace negotiations and reach agreements with Israel.

The one-page statement noted that the GCC decision to lift the boycott of firms dealing with Israel followed moves by some of the Arab Maghreb countries to take steps towards normalisation of relations with Israel.

Pointing out that the economic boycott of Israel was adopted under a resolution passed by the Arab League, the IAF statement said any decision to end the boycott was in defiance of the Arab League.

The Arab League has said that the GCC decision was null and void and that the boycott remained in place.

The GCC states, apparently succumbing to American lobbying, said last week that they were lifting the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel; meaning that companies which were so far denied business opportunities in the Gulf because of their links with Israel or with firms that deal with Israel were now free to enter the Gulf markets.

That is the immediate visible effect of the GCC decision. But it also frees other companies to establish business and economic links with the Jewish state without having to worry about denied opportunities in the Gulf states.

The ban on direct trade and economic ties with Israel remains in place.

The IAF statement, reiterating its rejection of the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process, called on Arab leaders to reconsider their decision.

Jordan, which is negotiating a peace agreement with Israel after declaring an end to a 46-year state of belligerency between them in July, has welcomed the GCC move as positive but said that the decision should be endorsed by the Arab League.

Officials have said that, in the wake of the peace process and the progress made in Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks of negotiations, the Kingdom was applying a case-by-case approach to the secondary and tertiary boycotts while not adopting a blanket decision to end them altogether at this point in time.

A local firm linked with the American giant Motorola, whose name appears in the boycott list, is poised to sign a final multi-million dinar agreement under which Motorola equipment and technology, would be used in Jordan's first cellular phone system.

Al-'Anani Views Peace Track With Israel

JN0910181594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Oct 94 p 24

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York—A new round of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will begin in Elat on the Red Sea coast on Monday [10 October]. Various committees will resume discussing sovereign issues regarding the territories, borders, water, and security. Other technical committees will discuss tourism, trade, communications, crossings, and other issues. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, informed political sources have told AL-RA'Y that optimism has not reached a level that would allow the two delegations to announce full agreement on the sovereign and technical issues, and, accordingly, to set a date to sign a bilateral peace treaty.

Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information, told AL-RA'Y that if Jordan regains its basic sovereign rights and manages to pursue its sovereignty over water and territory, and also if acceptable security arrangements preserving Jordan's dignity along the longest borders with Israel are worked out, Jordan should then be ready to discuss a peace treaty. This is because the basic objective is to reach a peace treaty, and we are close to this objective, he added.

Al-'Anani said: Before the end of this year, we are expected to work out a detailed schedule for withdrawal, for border demarcation, and for turning the cease-fire line into internationally recognized borders, as well as other issues. Implementation, however, needs a long time. After all details are worked out, implementation will be easy, he said. [passage omitted]

A question we might ask ourselves is: If we are really approaching the signing of a peace agreement, why are we now regarding such sovereign issues as territory and water? Dr. al- 'Anani said: First, it should be explained that the issue does not concern Israel alone; it should be ascertained that Jordan will receive sufficient economic aid, so citizens will feel the benefits of peace. He added: Neither the territories nor water are subject to debate or bargaining. The problem, however, lies in the details and not in the principles which were already agreed. Jordan treasures its rights, and Israel knows that the entire peace process is basically linked to Jordan obtaining its rights. What we see now is a mere negotiating position. It should be said, however, that a clear shift actually occurred in the Israeli position recently, and Jordan had to exploit the circumstances, which it did.

Al-'Anani said: Regarding the water issue, however, we do not only want our rights to water; we specifically want water from the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers. This is because we want to have a constant right to the water of these two rivers. This should be clear to the Israelis and others. [passage omitted]

Asked whether Jordan would resort to international arbitration on the border areas, particularly in Wadi al-'Arabah in southern Jordan, Dr. al-'Anani said: We in Jordan do not object to resorting to international arbitration if we differ with the Israelis on a specific issue. However, I believe that so far there is no reason to do so.

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The Israelis have thus far been reluctant about this matter, especially after their experience with Egypt with regard to Taba, he added.

On whether the Israeli side had proposed exchanging some parts of the disputed Jordanian land, especially in the south, Dr. al-'Anani said: We have to recall that the old Israeli law does not allow this, and if Jordan accepts this, the exchange will be with lands occupied in 1948. Therefore, Jordan insists on restoring its lands. [passage omitted]

On the reports about the wide differences in the Jordanian and Syrian political negotiating positions and the impact of this on official bilateral relations, Dr. al-'Anani said: Jordanian-Syrian relations would not even be discussion if there was no negotiating process. Based on the little things people know about what is going on the tracks, they build many theories on the nature of these relations.

He added: I think that Jordanian-Syrian relations are quite normal and there is nothing disturbing them. I also think that this is not something that needs to be discussed at all.

As for the other sensitive subject, dealing with Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which is the focus of attention domestically and internationally, Dr. al-'Anani said: I hope I will not be misunderstood because I will answer based on our real experiences. He added: Jordan deals with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] based on humanitarian principles and a stable policy, however, the PNA's relations with Jordan are sentimental and fluctuating. I can understand why they are experiencing this sentimental sort of situation. It is because of the difficult conditions they are in and the great challenges they face in trying to render the PNA successful in Gaza, and also because of they are surrounded by a hostile Israeli atmosphere. [passage omitted]

He said: Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli issues should be discussed one day in order to resolve joint problems.

As for the positive or negative influence on the peace process of other Arab developments, such as easing the Arab boycott and the participation in the Rabat conference, Dr. al-'Anani said: The Middle East cannot remain isolated from the rest of the world. It must either admit itself into the world arena while it has the chance to negotiate the terms of this admission and to build an economic relationship, or it must wait until this relationship is imposed on it.

He said: The economic conference that will be held in Rabat is an opportunity for financiers and companies willing to invest. [passage omitted)

Discusses King's Meeting With Rabin

JN1410011294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Interview with Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, on King Husayn's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, by correspondent Murid Hammad in Amman on 13 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-'Anani] Actually, in the past, we witnessed repeated meetings between His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister. Each time there is a meeting at the leadership level, we witness development in the negotiations because sometimes, matters require such meetings to resolve basic problems. We believe that these meetings gave good signs of progress in favor of the Jordanian position.

His Majesty King Husayn's method of negotiations is broad and farsighted. This method of negotiations has repeatedly made Israel realize that the benefits of peace that Jordan could reap will be beneficial to all. By pursuing this method, his majesty the king has managed to convince the Israelis and the Israeli leadership that Jordan cannot surrender its sovereign rights, and that the peace process, in its essence, is too promising and auspicious to entice Jordan into surrendering such rights. Consequently, they are now aware of this fact and we have begun to see a removal of such obstacles.

I believe that his majesty is taking such steps, shouldering responsibilities, and achieving results. Hence, it is a clear effort, the fruits of which we are beginning to witness on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

[Hammad] In light of last night's meeting and the announcement of a sustained interest on the part of the Jordanian and Israeli leadership, can we assume that the next few days will witness another possible breakthrough on the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Al-'Anani] Actually, the issue now is not what is mine and what is yours. I believe that much of this has been settled. What remains is the translation of this into a tangible reality and acceptable wording with which Jordan can live and through which it can, in the long run, guarantee the restoration of its rights. Of course, there are practical steps on which an agreement must be reached. I believe that, as of now, progress and matters are going in that direction.

Syria's Al-Shar' Israeli TV Interview Praised

JN1110120894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Channel to Peace Now Open"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syria edged closer than ever to break the psychological barrier with Israel when its Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' addressed the Israeli people directly through Israeli television a few days ago.

In actual terms it is not so much what Mr. al-Shar' had to say to the Israelis that has made a difference this time. What is different here is the fact that he accepted to talk to them in a straightforward manner in order to break

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the ice that still impedes real progress on the Syrian track. Knowing how it may be difficult for the Rabin government to convince its people to go along with exchanging all the occupied Syrian territory for a total peace, taking the Syrian case directly to the Israelis could be about the best service that Damascus can do to unlock the stalemated negotiations with Israel and advance its peace process with it in an expeditious manner. This latest development would certainly fuel additional speculation that the Israeli-Syrian peace talks are about to witness great movement as repeatedly projected by many knowledgeable observers. Given the fact that the Syrian foreign minister had earlier met with a number of prominent Jewish-American leaders in Washington to strengthen the peace effort, there is now every reason to expect a high-level Syrian-Israeli meeting to push their talks forward. All the other negotiating tracks, whether with the Palestinians or Jordanians, had to undergo peace parleys at the highest level, and the Syrian track may not be an exception. Once Syria and Israel start talking to each other at the decision-makers' level, there is no telling how far they would succeed in bridging the gap that still divides them. With the advent of another breakthrough on the Syrian front coming to fruition in a matter of months, if not weeks, the entire peace process in the area can take a breath of fresh air and move rapidly forward to complete all lingering issues. This bodes well for all the parties since without coordinated progress on all fronts every achievement on other fronts stands to lose a great deal of momentum and vitality.

Minister of State Meets Foreign Ministers at UN

JN0710085394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the sidelines of the meetings of the UN General Assembly, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, has met with a number of ministers taking part in the session. He also met with the president of the UN General Assembly. In a statement to the radio about the activities of the Jordanian delegation, the minister said:

[Begin al-Hasan recording] On the sidelines of the UN session yesterday and today, I met with the foreign ministers of Australia and Colombia. I also met with ('Amara Esay), president of the UN General Assembly, who is from Cote d'Ivoire, and the foreign minister of Zimbabwe.

Naturally, talk first focused on explaining Jordan's efforts in the peace process, the challenges we are facing at the current stage, and the brave and positive steps Jordan has taken in support of the peace process within the framework of international legitimacy, a comprehensive solution, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the exchange of land for peace to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

I also explained Jordan's efforts over the past five decades and the sacrifices it has offered in order to realize peace and support the current peace process. Moreover, I discussed with the ministers bilateral relations and means to bolster these relations in all fields. [passage omitted]

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Hizballah Official Dismisses Dialogue With U.S.

NC1310181694 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 30 Sep 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim has declared that although Hizballah has not publicly urged the government's downfall on certain occasions, this does not mean that it has abandoned this demand or that the government's performance has become commendable. He said: "We are still convinced that this government's departure is one of the country's important and basic needs."

During an interview with al-Manar Television, his eminence added: "We did not use the term toppling the government when we marked the anniversary of the 13 September massacre because we believe that the persistence in power of this government with its current makeup is due not to its competence or suitability but because of an obvious regional and international equation. This is how we explain how this government has resisted crises, including the deteriorating living standards and the 13 September massacre, the likes of which toppled other governments in the past. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Qasim stated that Hizballah categorically rejects negotiations with the enemy and noted that the strength of Lebanon's position results from Syria's position, which protects Lebanon from collapse in the face of the U.S. and Israeli pressures—pressures that are used as an excuse by Lebanese officials. He noted that the major role that the resistance plays in foiling Israel's plans should not be disregarded.

Asked about the likelihood of starting a dialogue between Hizballah and the United States, his eminence stressed that this is futile because the United States wishes to pressure Hizballah, as it does all oppressed nations. He declared: "Our refusal to start a dialogue is more effective than any dialogue we might have with it. It might use the dialogue against us."

His eminence said indirect gestures had been made in the past to start a dialogue, but Hizballah rejected them because such a dialogue would impart a legal character to the sinful U.S. role in the region. He called on the United States to stop interfering in "our affairs" and not to support Israel and other worldwide enemies of humanity.

Hizballah Raps U.S. Over Palestinian Issue

NC1310152794 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 30 Sep 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah has asserted that the U.S. attempts to use pressure to repeal the UN resolutions on Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict must be met by a response "equal to the threat that these attempts pose to Arab and Islamic rights."

Hizballah noted that "these attempts would not have been made so insolently had it not been for the state of Arab collapse and containment and the fact that some ruling regimes are eagerly seeking normalization with the enemy."

It continued: "These attempts contravene the U.S. commitment to base the negotiations which began at the Madrid conference on UN resolutions. They show that the United States is not earnest about implementing these resolutions." [passage omitted]

The Hizballah statement continues: "The role of honest intermediary that the United States professes to play in the negotiations is no more than a flimsy cover for the real U.S. role, which is totally supportive of the Zionist entity, seeks to maintain the enemy's superiority, and disregards the historical rights of the Palestinian people and other Arab nations on the pretext of giving the negotiations a positive boost. It is grotesque for Washington to regard the Arab boycott and UN resolutions as basic impediments to the negotiations but at the same time refuse to see any problem in the continued Zionist occupation and assaults." [passage omitted]

Hizballah Cables DFLP's Hawatimah, Condemns 'Arafat

NC1310112694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has stressed that the Palestinian and Arab situation is experiencing a swift deterioration, which poses fateful dangers to Palestinian territory, sanctities, and people and the whole Arab and Islamic region. This deterioration could make the region an arena for a joint U.S.- Israeli plan in which there is no place for anyone but traitors, agents, and those mortgaged at the expense of our nation, issues, and future. This came in a cable that Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah sent to Nayif Hawatimah, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], on the occasion of his reelection. In his cable, Nasrallah said that the abominable treason 'Arafat committed by signing the document recognizing the usurper Zionist entity and joining the deal of administrative self-rule, as outlined in the Oslo Agreement and its appendixes, justified and boosted the normalization process that the Arab region is witnessing and paved the way for progress in negotiations for a settlement and agreements on the Jordanian and Israeli tracks. In addition, 'Arafat's moves increased the pressure on the other tracks.

Nasrallah pointed out that at a time when we reject the negotiations for a settlement, their results, and the deals 'Arafat signed on behalf of Palestine and its people—he has no right to decide on this—we strongly denounce the manhunt and campaign of arrests launched by the self-rule authorities in Gaza against the mujahidin of the Palestinian people, who reject these treasonous deals.

Nasrallah said that the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and the blessed intifadah in Palestine are two integrated

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examples of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples' struggle, expressing our rejection of injustice, aggression, and occupation.

Hamas Member Meets Birri, Comments on Kidnapped Soldier

NC1310174294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri began his activity today with a meeting with a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation. Speaking on behalf of Hamas, Political Bureau member Khalid Mash'al noted agreement on the need to continue Palestinian and Arab steadfastness in the face of the expansionist Zionist plan. He affirmed Hamas' rejection of settlement of the Palestinians [in Lebanon] and the need to deal with the suffering Palestinians in Lebanon.

On the kidnapped Israeli soldier, he said the Movement has demanded the release of a number of its leaders and 180 Palestinian and Lebanese detainees in Israeli and Palestinian jails. He also noted a political and public confrontation with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

40 SLA Soldiers Questioned on Hizballah Collaboration

TA1310124094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] About 40 SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers have been interrogated in recent days on suspicion of collaborating with Hizballah and other hostile organizations north of the security zone, our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has learned from Lebanese sources.

According to the sources, the interrogation was launched following the assassination attempt against 'Aqil Hashim, the SLA commander of the western sector. The sources said that terrorists had knowledge of 'Aqil's movements and of his planned meeting on that specific day.

Israeli Artillery Shells Southern Region

NC1410094794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Israeli helicopters overflew south Lebanon at 2000 yesterday and raked the outskirts of Kafra, Sribbin, and Haris in the central sector. This was followed by concentrated 155-mm artillery bombardment of the outskirts of the aforementioned villages as well as Jabal Humayyid from the Israeli positions in Rshaf. The sporadic bombardment continued until late last night. The shelling reached the outskirts of Yatar, Kafra, and Siddiqin.

At midnight an Israeli gunboat was spotted off the Lebanese coast opposite al-Rashidiyah camp. The outskirts of Shaqra came under 81-mm artillery barrage from the Israeli position in Hula.

South African Arms Said Meant for South Yemen

NC1410065394 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 7 Oct 94 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report from Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to exclusive information obtained by AL-DIYAR from high-ranking African diplomatic sources, the arms at the center of a deal concluded betwween the Armaments Corporation of South Africa "Armscor" and Lebanese businessman Elie Wazzan were bound for south Yemen. They were never intended for Lebanon. The $700,000 deal involves 25,000 machine guns.

The diplomatic sources told AL-DIYAR that a Gulf state financed the deal, which was preceded by several other deals involving huge amounts of heavy weapons (prior to and during the Yemeni war).

The sources said the weapons' arrival in Beirut was not accidental; it was requested by the Lebanese arms dealer representing the interests of the Gulf state concerned. The move was made after Western intelligence services monitored this military support by the Gulf state to the secessionist government of Aden. This led some Western governments concerned with the Yemeni crisis to protest to the Gulf state and warn it against continuing to support the secessionists.

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Secretary Christopher Arrives on Visit

Arrives in Damascus

JN1310125494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, received him at Damascus International Airport.

Meets With al-Asad

JN1310190494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, U.S. Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross at the People's Palace at 1800 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Syrian Ambassador to the United States Walid al-Mu'allim attended the meeting.

Further on al-Asad Talks

JN1310231094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1800 today at the People's Palace, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross, the American Middle East peace coordinator, and Christopher Ross, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The session was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Walid al-Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador in Washington.

They discussed the ideas brought by Mr. Christopher regarding the topics that were raised during his previous visit within the mission the United States is undertaking as sponsor of the Middle East peace process. Mr. Christopher said the U.S. President and Administration are willing to keep up their efforts to push the peace process forward and help bridge the gaps between the sides.

The Syrian side welcomed the determination of the United States to pursue its efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Christopher Leaves Damascus

JN1410075394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife left Damascus this morning after a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Shar' Meets Iran's Assistant Foreign Minister

JN1210225794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Iran's Assistant Foreign Minister ('Abbas Malaki) in the presence of Assistant Foreign Minister Raslan 'Allush and Iran's Ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari. Discussion dealt with the situation in the region and recent developments in the Gulf. The two sides also talked about developments in the peace process.

Radio Praises U.S. Efforts, Urges Pressure on Israel

JN1310232294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Oct

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Observers of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region, which is aimed at advancing the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, agree that for this tour to reach its aspired goal, it should dot the i's and put the peace process and its basic facts in their objective and sound perspective. The facts established by the course and developments of the peace process have become all the more clear. In order for the U.S. effort to come to fruition, it should underscore these facts and deal with them seriously through practical reliance on and adherence to the facts produced by events.

Syria's serious position is on top of these facts. The correctness and validity of this position were proved by the successive events in the region. This position represents harmony between words and deeds and is based on a clear appeal to heed the bases of the peace process, on top of which is compliance with the UN resolutions and the basic principle of this process, that is, comprehensive withdrawal in return for full peace.

Syria has stressed its absolute adherence to the objective requirements of peace, which will be agreed upon, and its readiness to fulfill them. Out of its principled and steady position on the peace process, Syria has welcomed and favorably responded to the U.S. efforts, which it considered a positive helping factor conducive to promoting the peace process. Syria has done its best to facilitate this effort.

The Israeli position, on the other hand, is almost always prevaricating and misleading. Israeli attempts, which started right from the beginning of the peace process, continue unabated to obstruct the peace process and waste the opportune chances to make durable peace in

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the region—peace that would provide security and stability. Israel has resorted to various ways and means to confuse the bases and principles of the peace process. It still refuses to commit itself to the implementation of international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Israel is also keen on striking partial deals that hamper the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace, that sow the seeds of future confrontation and disputes, and that lead to a deformed peace incapable of safeguarding security and stability in the region.

These two facts, which are taken for granted by the international circles, lead to yet another important fact: The gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions, which the U.S. officials admitted, is basically a gap between the Israeli position and the international resolutions, between Israel and the bases of the peace process. Israel's commitment to these resolutions and adoption of the bases of peace in its positions would serve to bridge this gap to the narrowest limit possible, and would revive real hopes that a comprehensive and durable peace in the region can be realized.

Therefore, for the U.S. effort to come to fruition, it should accurately define its course of action. It should basically seek to convince Israel of the need to favorably respond to the peace efforts and to commit itself to the international resolutions and the bases and principles of the peace process. The aspired peace requires good faith on the part of all the parties involved, as well as their favorable response to the efforts being exerted. Peace can only be achieved through practical positions that are committed, in word and deed, to the realization of peace. Israel has thus far not shown enough seriousness or commitment to the bases and aims of peace. This makes it incumbent on the U.S. peace sponsor to secure these essential factors so that a just and comprehensive peace can be established in the region.

Paper: 'Israeli Obstacles' Affect 'Progress'

JN1310231894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher continues his tour of the region within the framework of efforts the U.S. Administration promised to exert until a just and comprehensive peace is reached.

The paper continues to say: Syria repeatedly welcomed and continues to welcome these efforts aimed at pushing the peace process forward, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The paper reiterates what President Hafiz al-Asad said in terms of Syria's adherence to the principles and bases of the peace process. The paper adds: Syria continues to do its utmost to render the peace process a success. This fact is realized by Christopher and the U.S. Administration, which repeatedly praised the Syrian position and its credibility and the Syrian policies to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH demands Israel to stop the game of provocation and the bargains it is sticking to in search of partial solutions and phased separate deals. The paper stresses: Everyone, from near and far, realizes that it is impossible for peace and occupation to coexist and that there can be no peace without a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa'.

The paper says that search for progress in the peace process must proceed from the removal of Israeli obstacles. This indicates the direction in which the U.S. efforts must go to remove these obstacles to achieve the requirements of a real peace based on justice and comprehensiveness.

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Bangladesh

Violent Demonstrations in Dhaka Leave 25 Injured

BK1310140394 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Oct 13 (AFP)—Police fired tear gas and used batons Thursday to disperse thousands of supporters of a Moslem fundamentalist and rightwing alliance who were staging a protest in the capital.

The demonstrators had taken to the streets to denounce the security force's crackdown on Wednesday and the arrival of a Commonwealth envoy to "facilitate" political conciliation in Bangladesh.

Witnesses said the supporters of the 13-party Combined Action Council (CAC) became violent after unidentified rivals hurled a home-made bomb at their march, injuring five people.

The protestors damaged several passing vehicles and threw stones at police, who retaliated by firing tear gas and chasing the activists with batons, the witnesses said.

The violence left at least 25 people injured, witnesses said.

The CAC, which laid siege to a high-security government complex Wednesday, protested the subsequent police clampdown.

Some 50 people were injured Wednesday when CAC activists fought with police and main opposition Awami League activists. Press reports said the clashes were sparked when the League's office came under attack.

CAC leaders charged at a rally that the main political group's agreement to allow the Commonwealth secretary general's envoy, Sir Ninian Stephen, to act as "facilitator" amounted to selling out Bangladesh's sovereignty and independence.

Stephen arrived here Thursday to facilitate talks between the government and the opposition in a bid to end an eight-month-long political standoff.

India

Minister Says Export Losses Due to Plague Marginal

BK1410081494 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 9 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has lost around Rs. [rupees] 1,000 crores in textiles and agro product exports in the last weeks following the ban on imports by several countries after the plague outbreak.

The Union Commerce Secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, told newsmen that the initial panic by several West Asian countries had abated and exports were expected to bounce back. Already some five Gulf countries had lifted the ban on unloading cargo from Indian liners and were allowing aircraft.

Mr. Khanna said as an immediate step the Government had asked Indian embassies abroad, especially in countries which have imposed bans on commodities to give public clarifications that the plague was not severe and that the goods imported did not carry the plague bacilli.

The Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, however said the export loss would be marginal "and we will soon make up". It would be difficult to quantify the exact loss, expect perhaps in foodstuffs which got held up because of the suspicion of their contamination. He sought to allay the fears abroad on the seriousness of the plague outbreak. The international media had given a distorted picture of the situation. "When I was in Madrid, every third person asked me what was happening back in India. The levels of distortion went so far that some countries clamped ban on import of foodstuffs from India when it is clearly known that the plague bacilli is carried only by rats and fleas or human beings in the case of pneumonic plague."

U.S. Trade Talks Seen Carrying 'Possibilities'

BK1410071294 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 7 Oct 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Don't Botch It!"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Presidential Development Mission led by the US Commerce Secretary, Mr. Ron Brown, is scheduled to arrive in India on January 14 on a week-long visit. This will be preceded in the third week of November by a high-level delegation of the US Under-Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Mr. Jeffrey Garten, and his team of officials to lay the groundwork for the Presidential Mission. The importance attached to these two visits is evident from President Bill Clinton himself addressing a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, explaining the purpose behind the two-stage approach ("to enhance our ability to make substantive progress in strengthening economic co-operation") and his vision of the outcome expected ("to target the most promising areas for commercial cooperation").

Mr. Rao in June talked of setting up a task force to report on the measures for promoting the inflow of US investment in India, but there has since been no news of follow-up. Assuming that it has indeed come into being and is engaged in doing the necessary spadework, one hopes that it will not miss the significance of the Clinton Administration's new style of striking deals. TIME magazine, in its issue of September 19, gives an inkling of this: "....when it comes to pushing US business interests abroad, no recent President has demonstrated Clinton's willingness to roll up his sleeves and dive into the sometimes grubby details of international dealmaking.

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or 'national export policy...' Whereas other US Presidents might have viewed such direct involvement as unfair interference with the free market—or may be just declasse mercantilism—Clinton, the putative populist, has turned out to be a natural in the role of salesman."

Mr. Clinton it was, who, making direct contacts with heads of state timed to coincide with Commerce Department's road shows, got Saudi Arabia to buy $6 billions worth of Boeing and McDonnel Douglas civilian aircraft and Brazil to award a $1.4 billion radar project to Raytheon. As for Mr. Brown, "gladhanding and glib" as he has been called, he has perfectly fitted in as Mr. Clinton's foil in drumming up deals worth $6 billions during his highly successful trip to China last month. Wherever he goes, some of the most powerful executives in corporate America are bound to go (24 were on the plane to China). The aim of the Clinton Administration is to create 13 million American jobs by 2000 by boosting exports, and no effort is too great to achieve it, since each billion dollars worth of sales translates itself into 20,000 jobs.

India may be the 31st largest US trading partner, but judged by the impressive growth in trade between the two countries from $5.7 billions in 1992 to $7.3 billions last year and in US investment from a measly $9.6 millions between 1981 and 1984 to $100 millions in 1989-93, the potentials for expansion on all accounts have been assessed at the dramatically high reaches of around $50 billions. About half the $3.3 billions of foreign proposals approved in 1993-94 was from the US, and this is just by way of scratching the surface. The US teams' wares are bound to include a whole host of possibilities in telecommunications, information technology, infrastructure, industrial and pollution control equipment, insurance and banking services.

But there's a rub: the logjam that India's policies imply in the eyes of the US. During its ensuing visits, therefore, the US side is bound to make a determined bid to clear it before coming to the specifics of particular deals. The masterkey with which the US seeks to prise open the world's markets is the "right of establishment", a core condition for avoiding Super 301 incorporated in the 1984 US Trade and Tariffs Act. The right of establishment defines a trade barrier to include restrictions on establishment and operations in foreign markets and demands treatment of US companies the same way as domestic ones. India will also be asked to furnish convincing proof of its responsiveness on a number of other issues such as freer and easier access to financial, insurance and banking services, and intellectual property protection, especially relating to patents of US pharmaceutical and chemical firms, cable and software piracy and trade mark usage. And, Bill himself will think nothing of phoning Rao as often as is needed in the course of the ensuing talks to egg him on to see the US point of view. Altogether, it is going to be a contest of wills decided by the quality of hard preparatory homework.

Iran

Official Hints at Efforts To Mediate Gulf Crisis

LD1410105894 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, OANA-IRNA—Press circles say Iran has started mediation between Iraq and Kuwait to resolve the tension on the two countries' border, which has provided a pretext for the United States to increase its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry official, who asked by IRNA to comment on the reports, simply admitted that certain officials of the Islamic republic had established contacts with Iraqi officials, but he observed that it was still too premature to say anything in that connection.

The Iraqi Embassy in Tehran was contacted for its own comments, but no embassy official was on hand.

The six month occupation of Kuwait by Iraq in the second half of 1990, ended in a destructive war launched by an American led coalition against Baghdad.

Iraq which has refused to recognize one-time war ally against Islamic Iran (1980-88) as a sovereign state, is holding war games near the Emirate's border, a measure which has prompted Western countries, especially the United States to start flexing their muscles in the region once again.

Mediation Speculated On

LD1310223294 Tehran IRNA in English 2205 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Press circles say Iran has started mediation between Iraq and Kuwait to resolve the tension on the two countries' border, which has provided a pretext for the U.S. to increase its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

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Syria Urged To Keep Resisting Pressure

NC1410112594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Firm Syria Weakens Obsequious Arabs"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The firm statement made by a Syrian official in the UN General Assembly was a slap in the face of the Zionist regime, the untenable policy of the United States, and the pro-Israeli Arab rulers.

Addressing the General Assembly, the Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar' said the equation of "land for peace" on which negotiations for an Arab-Israeli settlement were based, must be implemented in both its parts.

The negotiations over the Golan Heights, which the Zionist regime captured from Syria in 1967, remains the core of the stalemate in the so-called Middle East peace talks, initiated by the United States.

While Syria insists on full withdrawal as a condition for peace, Israel says it will agree only to a phased pullout, to take three years, and on the condition that Syria first demonstrates a willingness toward full normalization.

The two sides have been at an impasse since the talks were broken off last February after the massacre of Muslims at prayer in the West Bank city of al-Khalil.

This, at a time when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was due, once again, to launch his shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East. The Monday statement of the Syrian official, al-Shar', is a great blow to U.S. adventurism, as well as the Israeli policy of bringing all Arab countries to their knees. The Zionist entity wants to portray itself as a regional superpower, a long-range aspiration of the Zionists.

Al-Shar' also demanded that Israel vacate south Lebanon, where it has created a so-called security zone, to maintain its influence in that strategically important region.

In this column, we have warned Syria against the Zionist plot to lure Damascus to peace based on a phased withdrawal.

Syria was, is, and will remain under pressure by the United States, Israel, and, recently, by the Persian Gulf Arab rulers who lifted oil and economic embargoes on the occupying regime of the Holy Qods last Friday.

It was a commendable move by Syria not to yield under pressure. If Syria resists and demands that not only the Golan Heights and south Lebanon be liberated, but the Holy Qods as well, one billion Muslims will support it. It does not matter if certain Arab rulers are obsequious to the Zionists and the United States.

Syrian leaders must remember that the history of resistance to the Zionists is still being written, and if this policy is pursued by Damascus, its name will be imprinted indelibly in the annals of history.

Turkmen Leader Meets Oil Minister, Urges Ties

LD1310130494 Tehran IRNA in English 1236 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 13, IRNA—President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan Wednesday called for consolidation of ties between his country and Iran which he described as a great and powerful neighbor.

Niyazov made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who arrived in Ashgabat Wednesday on a 2-day visit.

During the meeting the two sides discussed Tehran-Ashgabat ties, and gas and oil cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkmen president thanked President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran for accepting his invitation to participate in celebrations marking the the third anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence.

Expressing pleasure with the expansion of Iran's economic ties with other countries, he said that Tehran's rapid economic progress has surprised the world.

Later on Wednesday, Aqazadeh held separate meetings with the Turkmen Vice-President for International Affairs Shikhmuradov and Oil Minister Khekim Ishanov.

Simultaneous with Aqazadeh visit to Ashgabat, four committees were set up to discuss mutual cooperation in exploiting oil in Turkmenistan, laying a pipe line for transport of Turkmen oil to Iran and reconstructing an oil refinery in the Turkmen city of Bashi.

Agreements Viewed

NC1410105094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the visit by Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh to Turkmenistan, three agreements were signed regarding oil and gas cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan.

Based on the agreements reached, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Russia were to set up a consortium for the exploration and extraction of Turkmenistan's oil and gas resources.

Aqazadeh returned from Turkmenistan last night and spoke on the other agreements in an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Tehran:

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[Begin Aqazadeh recording] The other agreements concerned the Turkmenistan gas pipeline, which needed greater study, and the necessary reorganization, initially established to set up a consortium. An agreement between Iran and Turkmenistan based on the intragovernmental decisions made in Tehran was signed. According to this agreement, under the supervision of this consortium, three companies are to be set up. One of the companies will attend to organization and policymaking concerning gas production. Another will be responsible for building the pipeline and relevant policymaking in this regard. The third company will be concerned with the financing [preceding word in English] of this massive project. The company that will be responsible for building the pipeline will be centered in Tehran.

The other agreements we reached were on bilateral commercial cooperation in the sale and purchase of the crude oil of Turkmenistan, its byproducts, the equipment needed by Turkmenistan, and markets for the goods that are mass-produced in Turkmenistan. It was decided that a joint company be set up for this purpose, with 50 percent of the share Iran's and 50 percent Turkmenistan's.

The central office of this company would be located in London at the National Iranian Oil Company Products office. This company would be responsible for organizing commercial activity in Turkmenistan. The first step taken by this company was to sign an agreement to buy 250,000 tons of mazut from Turkmenistan for export. We believe these agreements in Turkmenistan will open a new chapter in the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran's Petroleum Ministry and the Turkmenistan Oil and Gas Ministry officials.

These protocols take on particular significance, as they will provide an appropriate model for regional cooperation, especially in the littoral states of the Caspian Sea. [end recording]

Commerce Agreements Reached With Russia

LD1110101794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia have reached new agreements on the exchange of political, economic, and cultural delegations and also cooperation in the field of oil and gas.

During the second round of talks between Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi and his Russian counterpart Albert Chernyshev in Moscow last night, issues of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, as well as regional and international matters, were discussed. The deputy foreign ministers of Iran and Russia also reached agreement on the expansion of parliamentary cooperation between the two countries and establishment of a joint chamber of commerce.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Objectives of Trip

NC1310121594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard in the news, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in the Indonesian capital a few minutes ago at the head of a high-level politico-economic delegation on the first leg of his visit to the three southeast Asian countries. Before leaving Tehran last night, he spoke at Mehrabad Airport about the objectives of his trip to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei. We draw your attention to the response by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to our correspondent's questions:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, on the eve of your trip to Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia, could you tell us: What objectives are being pursued on these visits and what will be the axes for discussion?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

First, during (?the visits) of the heads of these three countries to Iran we had talks here and they were insistent in their invitations to us. This was the earliest chance we had to reciprocate this invitation.

Second, these countries are Islamic countries and there are numerous problems facing the Islamic world today. Almost all of these will be incorporated in the agenda of our discussions.

During those presidents' trips to Iran we discussed particular topics some of which are being implemented and these are the subjects we will be discussing with them. God willing, we will strive to consolidate what we have gained in our interaction with them.

Every aspect will be considered, including cultural, political, technical, scientific, economic, and commercial issues. In each sphere we have regulations for cooperation and we think that on this trip we can move toward greater [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] Could you tell us whether the closeness between the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and the Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN] will be discussed and is on your agenda?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. This is one of the topics we hope to discuss. We discussed it earlier. We now have more extensive coverage this time, which includes the problems of the Third World, regarding which we have something special to say. There is also regional cooperation. There is eagerness to gain access to the Central Asian and northern countries through our country and this is also on the agenda. I do not wish to give you the list of the topics that will be discussed. Naturally, some

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of the topics that we favor will be presented in a comprehensive form to our dear people, God willing, at the end of our trip.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Velayati Receives Kurdish Leader Barzani

LD1310104194 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday night received leader of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Mas'ud Barzani who said any measure in the absence of coordination with Iran, Syria and Turkey would bear no result.

Barzani, arrived here last Sunday, outlined latest developments in northern Iraq and said, "preserving Iraq's territorial integrity will be benefitial for us."

Velayati in reply noted that regional interests would be maintained by preserving the existing borders and safeguarding territorial integrity of all regional states.

He added that presence of the U.S. forces in the Perisan Gulf as an excuse for Iraq's military movements was an example of interference in the internal affairs of regional countries and against their interests.

Official on Egyptian Relations, Iraqi Moves

NC1310111194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—'Abbas Maleki, Iranian deputy foreign minister and head of the Tehran-based Institute for International Political Studies, has stated that Egypt and Iran are two countries with a relationship that has been smooth and easy for over 200 years, except for a few instances when this smoothness in relations was disrupted.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Maleki pointed out that bilateral relations now involve some positive and negative aspects. He hoped that new relations and ties between Egypt and Iran will begin and that the current obstacles and hurdles facing the relationship will be overcome. The Iranian official added: We admit that differences in views exist between Egypt and Iran but we respect the positions of Egypt and its government and acknowledge the two countries' right to adopt and voice independent and different positions and opinions. He added that contacts are now under way between Egypt and Iran in various areas. He noted in this regard the existing bilateral cooperation over the crisis in Bosnia, the close coordination between the two countries' delegations to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last month, and their cooperation and coordination within the Islamic Conference Organization.

Asked how Iran views the new Middle East and prospects for Egyptian-Iranian cooperation, Maleki said that Egypt is a big country and that there are broad horizons for cooperation in the Middle East. He stressed that Iran cannot permit Israel to draw the political map for the future of the Middle East. Noting that the problem of Iraq will be solved, he expressed his belief that after several years of misunderstanding among the Middle Eastern countries, these countries will one day find the differences among them over.

On the effect of the new crisis between Iraq and Kuwait on the region, the Iranian deputy foreign minister voiced his country's opposition to any aggression by one party against the territory of another. He noted that Iran previously objected to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The Iranian official denied any relations or secret cooperation between Iran and Israel. He said that proof of this lies in the accusations, acute pressure, and criticism against the Iranian policy following the recent explosion at a Jewish synagogue [as received] in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires.

185-Tonne Aid Consignment En Route to Bosnia

LD1310171194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The largest overland consignment of Iranian relief aid has been sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The 185-tonnes consignment contains medicine, foodstuff, clothing, and medical instruments. The 12 articulated trucks carrying the aid this morning left the Red Crescent Society's relief operations complex for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ECO Consular Experts Hold Session in Tehran

LD0810141494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first session of ECO member countries' consular experts opened at our country's Foreign Ministry in Tehran this morning. Consular experts from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Pakistan, and Tajikistan will take part in the three-day session, which is chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the opening ceremony of the session, referring to the fact that consular relations are the most important aspect of ties between countries, Mr. Mottaki, the deputy foreign minister for legal, consular and parliamentary affairs, said: Providing consular facilities between ECO member countries can play an effective role in expanding economic cooperation between ECO members.

He expressed the hope that the experts taking part in the session will be able to formulate a document in accordance with which the necessary facilities will be provided for the traffic of merchants and also for the existing economic facilities in the region to be utilized in the best possible manner.

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Nateq-Nuri on Opposition to 'Closed' Trade Policy

LD1010083394 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Sunday that Iran by no means agreed with "closed door policy" in its economy and considered it as "venom" for the economy of the country.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 20th Tehran International Trade Fair, the speaker noted the Islamic Republic believes that doors of the world markets should be open to everyone adding that trade exchanges should be carried out on fair bases.

There would be no restriction for domestic or foreign investors to invest in Iran in the fields of energy, oil, gas, petrochemistry, mines and metals, transport, tourism and processing industries, added Nateq-Nuri.

He referred to the Second Five-Year Development Plan as a "proper chance" for domestic and foreign investors saying that promotion of Iran's trade, industrial and scientific relations with the world counties was the core of the plan.

One of the most basic tasks of the country in the reconstruction era is to boost non-oil exports by producing goods for exports and "this is the long-term policy of the Islamic Iran," noted the speaker.

He added that economic adjustment, logical and continued growth of gross national product, privatization, reforming economic structure, securing social justice and attracting capitals were among major objectives of the second development plan.

Nateq-Nuri stated that people and government played key role in the process of privatization which by itself had a major impact on economic structure of the country.

As for providing capital and removing obstacles in the way of investment in the country, the speaker noted that adoption of sound policies and moving towards a powerful and reliable monetary system should be seriously considered by the officials.

He praised efforts of those in charge of the exhibition and called the event a proper chance for sound competition.

Meanwhile, a number of domestic and foreign companies were awarded for proper representation of their products.

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy, Germany and China as well as the Iranian Ministries of Industries, Agriculture and Mines and Metals were among those which received "crystal plates", the award of the fair.

Also present at the concluding ceremony were a number of Iranian officials including Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq and Deputy Commerce Minister for Exports 'Ali Sa'id-Loo.

Sa'id-Loo told IRNA that some 1,800 domestic and 720 foreign companies from 50 world countries put their products on display at the fair which was held in an area of 147,000 square meters.

The participants put on display their latest production and industrial techniques, added the official.

He hoped that by providing new export facilities in the second development plan the existing problems would be gradually removed and thus the country's export goods would find their proper place at world markets.

The official added that four million people visited the fair.

General Discusses Strategy, Regional Issues

NC0710192394 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 94 p 5

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier General Sayyad Shirazi by TEHRAN TIMES correspondent S.N. Amuzegar in Tehran; date not given—punctuation as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tehran— Deputy Joint Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Sayyad Shirazi, in an exclusive interview at his office Thursday with the TEHRAN TIMES, spoke of the many critical issues facing the military at the regional and international fronts. [passage omitted]

Asked to comment on the present situation of "neither war nor peace" with Iraq as a top-ranking military commander during the tough war years, the Brigadier said "What brought the war to an end was an official UN document, namely, Resolution 598. This resolution has clear and precise articles the first of which has already been accomplished.

However, there has been little or no progress in achieving the rest which lie dormant due to Iraq's failure to cooperate."

He said the "lack of necessary measures for implementation of the approved ratifications of international bodies" was the cause of the failure to implement the rest of the resolution.

Asked to compare the Islamic Republic's military power with that of the regional countries, he said that "In spite of all the hardships our brave nation and holy land has been through, we have the confidence in our ability to defend our national rights and interests. The war made us realize our potential capabilities, although we never used them to the fullest."

"The war also gave us many valuable lessons and now we have a strong and experienced military force," Shirazi

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said, adding that "the military power of the Islamic Republic is a potentially strong force, quite capable of safeguarding the stability of our country and the achievements of our revolution."

"Yet there is no point in making a comparison between our military power with that of our neighbors," Shirazi said, "because we believe in peaceful coexistence with them and were it not for the instigation supplied by the superpowers, we would be enjoying good relations with them anytime."

On the question "Do you feel any serious threats to the Islamic Republic?" Shirazi answered: "The only serious threat to the Islamic Republic is the so-called plots hatched by the superpowers against us. The reason for hatching such plots is that the achievements of our revolution, namely our independence, freedom, and divine system of our regime constitutes a potential threat to their illegal interests. That is why they cannot tolerate our presence in the world political scene and they would not miss the slightest chance of creating trouble for us."

On the subject of border security with regional countries, the high ranking military official said., "We do not have any particular difficulty controlling our international borders, except for two minor issues.

"The first is the problem of drug trafficking committed every now and then at our eastern boarders, and the second, the activities of anti revolutionary elements in the northwestern regions close to the border. These traitors are mercenaries hatching plots against our brave nation in subservience of their foreign masters. They sometimes cause minor problems which, fortunately, are brought in control by the swift action of our devoted forces.

"The reason why these irritants remain up to now is their international nature."

On the fields of activities of Iran's military forces and the Islamic Republic Guard Corps (IRGC), the Brigadier, responding to the question "In what areas do they have cooperation and in which are they assigned special tasks?" said "We have two legal organizations with separate tasks and separate facilities in our country: the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Republic Guard Corps.

Each has its own exclusive tasks within their organizations assigned by law under the supervision of the Joint Staff Command. The said command is in charge of harmonizing the activities and responsibilities of these two bodies as well as devising common policies and rules for them to follow. In short, they are by no means opposing organizations."

Asked to evaluate Iran's military capabilities in the regional and international level, Shirazi said, "The tested military power of our country is a catalyst for peace and stability in the region on the condition that foreign hands cease to meddle in the regional countries' affairs."

Asked to comment on the latest case of U.S. intervention, i.e., Haiti, Shirazi said, "Intervention in other countries' affairs is unjustifiable and we denounce it as a part of a policy of forced hegemony," adding that "if America was truly sincere in helping Haiti.. why did they sign an agreement with the military leaders and agree to let them stay and...send forces to continue killing ruthlessly the innocent (Haitian) people?

Iran has a peaceful coexistence among its neighbors, yet the presence of various U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and its unwelcome interference in some countries' policymaking centers has created military chaos in the region."

Asked about the new initiatives of the Armed Forces Joint Command for defending the country, keeping in mind the constant threats of foreign powers, Shirazi said "We have about 16 valuable years of experience in defending our country. We have realized that we must organize all our potential defenses under a comprehensive plan in which all qualified manpower, military facilities and the guiding force of these defenses would be patterned after the enemy's defense positions."

Shirazi stressed the fact that the Islamic Republic holds a strategic position in the region according to military experts and as such cannot be left out in any regional peace plan. How then, he says, can the regional powers talk of any peace plan for the region without including Iran and how would they go about defending such peace?

Shirazi said that both questions are for politicians to answer but with his military training and orientation he volunteered his humble opinion that such a peace could only be achieved and maintained by respecting the social values of peoples of the region and respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of each sovereign nation. [passage omitted]

Concluding the interview, the Brigadier said that the goal of the country's armed forces may be crystallized in the phrase "sacred defense" which, he said, summarizes the sacred goal of our armed forces of resisting any outside intervention in our country's affairs.

Tehran Jewelers Protest Tax Increase

NC1310214994 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 13 (AFP)—More than 300 jewellers in Tehran's central bazaar turned off their shop lights and removed gold from their window displays in protest at sharp tax increases, a newspaper reported here Thursday.

Jewellers in the bazaar quoted by the SALAM daily said taxes on gold had jumped around a hundred-fold this year.

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The protest which took place Tuesday and Wednesday was the first to be organised by a guild in the bazaar since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

One jeweller told the daily he had to pay 80 million rials (30,000 dollars) in taxes this year compared with 1.16 million rials (400 dollars) a year before.

Others said every jeweller was forced to pay between 100 million rials (36,000 dollars) and 140 million (50,000 dollars).

The tax increases were apparently a response to a sharp rise in the price of gold, which has nearly doubled in the past year.

The jewellers went back to work Wednesday after the government agreed to form a committee to tackle the problem, consisting of five people representing the economics ministry and the guild of jewellers.

Faced with a drop in the price of oil—Iran's main source of revenue—the government has in the past two years stepped up efforts to collect taxes from businesses and professionals, who often get away with paying small sums disproportionate to their income.

However, in the absence of a proper accounting system, some businesses are audited to pay arbitrary and exaggerated sums.

Organizations Set Up To Check Rising Prices

LD1310121494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The headquarters in charge of providing support for regulating the market held its second meeting yesterday. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and all members of the headquarters attended. During the meeting, in view of the the legal powers given to the government, the organization and executive apparatus of the state penal law were ratified.

On the basis of this ratification, an organization in charge of inspection, supervision, and control of commodity and service prices will be set up in the Commerce Ministry. This organization will employ trustworthy inspectors to supervise commodity distribution and prices all over the country. The inspectors will investigate the people's complaints and will identify offenders.

To proceed legally to punish the offenders, profiteers, hoarders, and other economic saboteurs, an organization named the Penal Code Investigation Organization [Sazman-e Rasidegi be Ta'zirat] will be set up under supervision of the justice minister. On the basis of the approved regulations of this organization, penal coordination commissions will be set up in various provincial capitals and towns, headed by governors general and governors and relevant managers. These commissions will provide the necessary coordination to support the market control programs and will supervise proper implementation of the penal code.

In the wake of the president's instructions, the Commerce and Justice Ministries are duty bound to prepare the regulations and implementation guidelines of the said organizations within a week. The cabinet would then debate and approve these regulations.

Former Police Chief Appeals for Free Elections

BR1110150494 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 10 Oct 94 p 4

[Telephone interview with former Chief of Military Police Azizollah Amir Rahimi in Tehrna by Guido Olimpio; date not given: "In Teheran a General Is Rebelling Against the Ayatollahs"—first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] And if Saddam were to entangle himself again with the United States, his historic enemies, the Tehran ayatollahs, are taken up with a serious domestic problem. Former military police commander Azizollah Amir Rahimi, aged 65, has in a courageous initiative invited the leaders of the Iranian regime to resign and allow free elections. To launch his challenge, the official has written an open letter to the country. A few months ago four generals speaking on behalf of the Armed Forces warned of the risk of the country disintegrating. And on the occasion of the Qazvin rebellion the authorities discovered that they could not trust the Army to repress the growing popular protest.

From Tehran, Rahimi confirmed his initiative in a telephone conversation with our newspaper.

[Olimpio] Why did you launch this appeal?

[Rahimi] In my country there is a lack of freedom and the institutions are failing to do their job. We gave thousands of lives for the revolution in order to win freedom and we have obtained nothing. What is happening lies outside national and international laws, but not even human rights are respected.

[Olimpio] How have those in power reacted?

[Rahimi] They have summoned me to court, but I did not reply because I am a general. In the summons published in the press they cite only my first name and family name, but not my rank because they despise it. For this reason I have written to the head of the Army protesting about what has happened. And I have sent a copy of the letter to Justice Minister Yazdi.

[Olimpio] Is there agreement in the Army on what you have done?

[Rahimi] Certainly. And when I launched the call both among serving military and those who are retired, there was a large response. My comrades have not forgotten

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that when the Army was falling apart I was the only one to keep the apparatus in place and this is why they are supporting me today.

[Olimpio] Are you afraid of your fate? An authoritative opposition figure, Doctor Gangj, has launched an appeal to the United Nations.

[Rahimi] I am concerned because no one guarantees my safety, but I am certainly not afraid. I continue to do my duty.

[Olimpio] And can Italy help people like you?

[Rahimi] You can do a lot, and I would ask you in the name of humanity to intervene from the pages of your newspaper. The Iranian people are looking for democracy and hoping for support.

Cabinet Forms Committee To Combat High Prices

LD0910172594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At this evening's cabinet meeting it was decided to form a committee for the purposes of implementing the plan for combating high prices. The committee will comprise special representatives of the president and the ministers of commerce, economics and finance, oil, industries, agriculture, jihad reconstruction, and the governor of the Central Bank and the executive deputy of the president, under the supervision of the president.

At this evening's meeting, which was chaired by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the ministers also approved that all the duties and powers of the president and the cabinet should be allocated to this committee in order to speed up and pool efforts. All government bodies are also duty bound to cooperate with this committee and to fully implement its resolutions.

This committee is responsible for taking necessary measures in order to support, coordinate, and supervise the provision and distribution of the country's essential, sensitive, and necessary goods, through meeting the demands of production units and using their maximum capacity—also coordinating general supply, through exports, provision of goods, using private or cooperative, direct or chain distribution networks, providing the necessary means and financial resources for the activities, using the capabilities of the state trade sector in provision of raw material necessary for intermediate and consumer goods—and taking necessary measures for the timely provision and proper distribution of the country's essential, sensitive, and necessary goods.

The committee was also made responsible for determining the goods that must be included in the price control list and take measures for pricing them with due consideration for a just profit for producers and distributors.

In this meeting, the president, initially emphasizing the firm government decision in the fight against profiteering, thanked the esteemed leader, legislature, and judiciary for being prepared to cooperate with the government.

He also expressed gratitude for the extensive popular support for the government measures in the fight against profiteering and said continuous popular cooperation with the government was the means of success for the plan.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also called on the producers and distributors to be content with a just profit and cooperate with the government and people.

The president said the implementation of this important plan was to the benefit of all sections of society.

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